



Repackaging the poppy

How the Royal British Legion is trying to polish up its image, page 2



Frozen in time

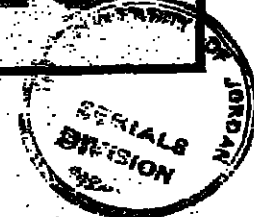
Antarctic fight to preserve Scott's base camp, page 16



Justice and prejudice

Can Rosemary West get a fair trial? David Pannick, page 18

20P



THE TIMES



No. 65,156

THURSDAY JANUARY 5 1995

Howard and Lewis under pressure as Prison Service admits Parkhurst security lapses

Jail failed to act on master key warning

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

LOCKS throughout Parkhurst top-security prison on the Isle of Wight were changed yesterday after three dangerous prisoners escaped using a copy of a master key. Hundreds of police were continuing a hunt for the men last night, as the Prison Service admitted that the breakout had occurred because of lapses in security procedures.

As the Isle of Wight was sealed off last night, Devon and Cornwall Police were protecting everyone connected with the prosecution of the murderer Keith Rose, one of the escapees, after fears that he had a hit-list of people against whom he wanted revenge.

Prison officers claimed last night that John Marriott, the Parkhurst governor, was told two days ago that officers believed prisoners had a copy of the master key and that a warder's uniform was missing. Terry McLaren, of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "We found it extraordinary that direct action was not taken."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Derek Lewis, the Director-General of the Prison Service, were told three months ago by Judge Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, that there were "serious security defects" at the jail, which holds 216 high-risk prisoners. Despite those warnings, the three men were able to obtain tools from a toolshed and had built a home-made ladder.

The escape led to increased criticism of the Prison Service and renewed demands for the

resignations of Mr Lewis and Mr Howard. Neither has any intention of quitting. Having ordered a full review of security at the jail, Mr Howard said yesterday: "The Prison Service has issued a statement that says it is likely that basic security procedures were not followed. If that is the case, then action must be taken to determine precisely who was responsible for what."

He said: "We are absolutely determined to leave no stone unturned in finding out what happened and to put it right, but at the moment we don't know for certain exactly what

was the cause of this dreadful, dreadful escape."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, told Mr Howard that his job was on the line, but stopped short of demanding his resignation. He recognises that if Labour gain power, he could find himself in a similar position. He said: "How [Mr Howard] responds to this latest set of events will determine whether he can with any authority remain in office. There is now a large question about what confidence he has from his own parliamentary and ministerial colleagues."

Police gave a warning to the public not to approach the

three escapees, who were all serving life sentences. Matthew Williams, 25, was jailed for arson, conspiracy to cause explosions and administering poison; Keith Rose, 45, shot dead the wife of a supermarket tycoon during a bungled kidnap attempt; and Andrew Rodger, 44, battered to death a nightwatchman in November 1987.

They escaped while they were among 31 prisoners in the gymnasium, when they used the copied key to unlock the door and to enter a prison workshop. They collected a pair of bolt-cutters and pieced together hidden sections of a ladder they had built during metalwork classes. They cut their way through an internal security fence and used the ladder to scale the perimeter wall.

Prison staff discovered the breakout shortly after 8pm, two hours after the men were last seen in the gym. Within hours the Prison Service admitted that the escape probably occurred "because of a failure to follow basic security procedures". It is understood that an initial inquiry has uncovered failures to search Category A prisoners and a failure to monitor closed-circuit television, giving the men time to flee the island.

The breakout came as a second night of rioting caused widespread damage at Everthorpe jail in Humberside. Michael Forsyth, the Prisons Minister, blamed the disturbances on tougher security at the jail, including a clampdown on drugs.



Michael Howard and Derek Lewis yesterday. Both were told three months ago that there were serious security defects at Parkhurst

Tumim raised alarm three months ago

By Our Home Correspondent

JUDGE Tumim gave a warning to the Prison Service three months ago that there were serious security defects at Parkhurst. His alarm at inadequate searching and the failure of staff to use electronic searching equipment properly came during an inspection of the jail last October.

The judge wrote to Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, on October 7, alerting him to the prob-

lems. It said that his worries about security were not intended as "any criticism of management". It added: "The main trouble is inadequate searching. The content of the letter was made known to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary."

Judge Tumim said yesterday: "I found serious security defects on a broad front. My comments were passed to the Director-General of Prisons, who said something would be done right away. I assume some action was taken, but it

has not been effective." He added: "We were very unhappy about the security condition generally."

Judge Tumim said that his letter had concentrated on the lack of searches. It is the first time that he has written to the head of the Prison Service while an inspection was under way to express concern about security.

Another part of his letter mentioned the need for the refurbishment of the special security unit at the jail, where there was concern that a

helicopter could be used to help escapees. Prisoners have been moved from the unit while it is rebuilt.

The concern about searching at Parkhurst was highlighted by the escape by IRA inmates from Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire. It is believed that the *Semtex* found at Whitemoor had come from Parkhurst when an IRA man was transferred.

Mr Howard insisted that the initial recommendations made by Judge Tumim's team received immediate attention.

"Most of his recommendations related to searching, and those recommendations were implemented. Searching has been improved. He also made one recommendation which involved building work - that is under way," he said.

The Prison Service said that as a result of Judge Tumim's letter searching now exceeds the required levels. "Major building work to upgrade physical security at the prison is currently under way, but will not be completed until 1998," a statement added.

Knight jailed for seven years

Ronnie Knight, who for a decade lived the high life in Spain on the proceeds of a £5.9 million robbery, was jailed for seven years yesterday by an Old Bailey judge.

The former husband of the actress Barbara Windsor received more than £300,000 as his share of the cash from the Security Express raid in 1983. Page 5

Labour moves in to Tory heartland

Tories have had their worst losses to Labour in the traditional southern middle-class heartlands, according to the MORI aggregate of more than 52,000 interviews for *The Times* in 1994. Since July Labour has also advanced on the Lib-Dems. Page 8

A 'Salute to Newt' as US greets the new Speaker

WITH equal measures of elation and repudiation, the Republicans yesterday took charge of the US Congress for the first time since Eisenhower's day, and immediately launched their bid to reverse the relentless 60-year growth of the "Nanny State" that began with President Roosevelt's New Deal.

The historic transfer of power was marked in Washington with the sort of razzmatazz normally reserved for a presidential inauguration. Only this time the coronation was that of Newt Gingrich, a visionary conservative dubbed "Gingrich Khan" by his detractors but considered a late-day Moses by the Republicans he has finally led from the political wilderness.

Mr Gingrich was formally elected as the most powerful, but least tested, House Speaker of modern times by 228 votes to 202. President Clinton.



Martin Fletcher reports on US euphoria as the Republicans take charge of Congress for the first time since Eisenhower's day

gravely weakened by the Democrats' election rout, stayed out of Washington for the highly emotional ceremony, preferring to nurse his wounds in his native Arkansas. Dispirited Democratic congressmen looked on powerlessly.

Mr Gingrich had arrived from his native Georgia on Tuesday on board a "Speaker Express" aircraft loaded with relatives and supporters. That night 1,500 jubilant Republicans attended a "Salute to Newt" dinner featuring signed copies on every seat of *Contract with America*, the Republicans' election platform, plus film clips of Washington pun-

dits solemnly insisting last year that the Republicans had no chance of taking Congress.

Mr Gingrich then went to a Republican gala attended by another 2,800 supporters, who could scarcely believe how their party's fortunes had recovered since President Bush's devastating defeat two years ago. Outside, sleek black limousines lined the pavements in an echo of the Reagan era.

Normally the opening day of a new Congress is followed by a fortnight's recess, but yesterday the Republicans wasted scarcely a minute before embarking on their much heralded revolution. The mo-

Continued on page 15, col 7

Yeltsin orders halt to Grozny bombing

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin last night ordered his forces to halt their bombardment of Grozny after civilian casualties continued to mount in the fifth day of fighting for control of the besieged Chechen capital.

In a move intended to counter a growing outcry at home and abroad over the mounting death toll, the Russian leader said last night that the bombing would end at midnight.

The presidential press service said that the decision was taken at a meeting between President Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and other senior Kremlin figures who had been inundated with appeals from the public, the press and politicians to halt the attack.

Despite the announcement, there was no evidence yesterday that the move signalled a broader attempt at halting the

24-day offensive to force the breakaway republic back under Moscow's control.

Nikolai Yegorov, Yeltsin's deputy Prime Minister in charge of co-ordinating operations in Chechnya, yesterday predicted that the capital would soon fall.

Fighting continued yesterday in and around the centre of Grozny, where the Chechen defenders still seem to be in control of most of the capital.

President Yeltsin's conciliatory move was in part prompted by the graphic description in the Russian press and gruesome television footage of attacks on Tuesday by Russian aircraft which left scores of civilians dead.

In one attack, reporters said that 100 men, women and children died when bombers struck an open market.

Emergency talks, page 11

Green activist lost on secret jungle mission

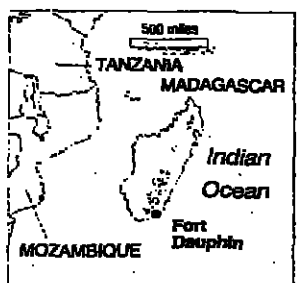
By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A LEADING British environmentalist on an undercover investigation into destruction of the Madagascar rainforest is missing in a remote part of island without food and only a few days' supply of water. Fears were growing last night for Andrew Lees, 46, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, who was last seen at the weekend entering the Tetrily Forest area, 15km from Fort Dauphin, in the southeast of the island.

The veteran campaigner has been officially visiting Madagascar as a tourist since

December 14, for wildlife filming, and was due to fly home on Sunday. But, despite searches by local gendarmes and tribespeople, there has been no trace of him since he left his driver on a lonely dirt track to return to the forest on Saturday afternoon.

Yesterday his girlfriend, Dr Chris Orenge, 35, a scientist from Kentish Town, north London, flew to join the rescue in the former French colony 240 miles off the east African coast. Peter Smith, British Ambassador in Antananarivo, the island's capital,



said he was sending a senior official to help as Madagascar police stepped up investigations. Officially, Friends of the Earth are playing down the

disappearance. Charles Seerrett, director of the group, said: "My own feeling is that in the very dense jungle, Andrew tripped and sprained or even broke an ankle. Because the vegetation is so thick, sound doesn't carry far. Someone could be within 50 yards of you and not hear you shouting," he said.

But privately members fear for Mr Lees' safety after they disclosed that he was gathering evidence for an unspecified secret investigation. The rainforests are under pressure from logging companies, deforestation from cattle rearing and farming, and from un-

ing interests. Local people also kill threatened species, including lemurs.

Sheila O'Connor, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which has representatives in the area, said the area in which Mr Lees disappeared was free from dangerous or poisonous wild animals.

Ted Lees, Mr Lees' father, said yesterday from his home at Ormesby, Norfolk: "We are getting increasingly worried about his safety. He is used to being in remote areas, but I have never heard of him disappearing before."

Coup rumours, page 14



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Oil drilling at Windsor approved by councillors

BY ANDREW PIERCE

PERMISSION was granted yesterday to drill for oil in the grounds of Windsor Castle. Canuk Exploration has been given eight weeks in which to strike oil and is likely to start work by August.

Exploratory drilling will take place 800 yards southeast of the castle and 200 yards east of The Long Walk. The oil company, set up by a husband and wife in 1989, estimates that the Royal Family is sitting on a £1 billion fortune.

Large oil companies such as British Petroleum and Shell have reportedly shied away from exploration in Windsor because of the adverse publicity.

Civic leaders in Windsor who were against the proposal were last night considering an appeal to the Prince of Wales. Dennis Outwin, Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, said: "He is the one with the green credentials. Perhaps he would intercede with his mother."

Berkshire County Council planning committee, meeting in Reading, voted nine to three in favour of the company being able to sink a 400-metre borehole. None of the 12 councillors on the committee represents wards from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The councillors gave approval after environmental officers ruled that noise, general disturbance and visual impact would be minimal. The exploration site will be fenced off but a 60ft mobile drilling rig mounted on a lorry will be visible to walkers in the Great Park and to people looking out from upstairs windows of the castle.

Dr Desmond Oswald and his wife Olive, who own Canuk, estimate there is a one-in-eight chance of finding enough oil to fill 100 million barrels. If they strike crude a separate planning application will be required for extraction.

The Treasury, and not the Queen, will benefit from any oil find. The Royal Family

forsook revenues, including those from mineral rights, on Crown Land in exchange for the annual Civil List. The Crown will be able to negotiate a small fee for access.

Mr Outwin said that the drilling could create a Dallas-on-Thames and lead to an invasion of noddling donkeys and Stetson hats. He said the Queen's reputation would be irreparably damaged.

"I have had telephone calls and letters from all over the world from people expressing disbelief that she is allowing the desecration of a national monument," Mr Outwin said. "I have great affection for her but she is very badly advised. This will only further damage the reputation of her family. Tourists will be driven off by noddling donkeys? Who else wants to come to see an oilfield in Windsor Great Park?"

Commander Michael Porter, chairman of the Berkshire branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "This is a sad day for Windsor and for the Queen. The council is naive. They will only explore for oil if they get the chance to extract. I am astonished that the views of the local people have been willfully ignored."

Don Beer, chairman of the county council's development control and waste regulation committee, said: "This is something we have got to do. I think it is imperative that we know if oil is there or not."

John Maisie, a councillor for the Royal Borough, said: "The castle and park are at the very heart of our national heritage. The public at home and abroad are astonished we should contemplate oil exploration in this sensitive site. This application is not for the national or public good."

Buckingham Palace declined to comment but Edwin Singer, a Windsor councillor, predicted rebellion. "Not for the first time in its 1,000-year history, a reigning monarch has found herself with citizens who are revolting," he said.



Hannah O'Connor, Miss Poppy 1994, showing off the legion's new logo

Legion enters new age of charity with modern image

THE Royal British Legion launched its new image yesterday with the help of some of the young ex-servicemen that have benefited from its work. The legion wants to broaden and modernise its appeal, showing the public that it is not just a club for ageing veterans (John Young writes).

The legion has a new logo depicting the famous poppy, which will appear in advertisements in national newspapers and on poster sites. At the launch was Andy Phillips, 29, who was discharged from

the Royal Air Force 18 months ago with a slipped disc aggravated by his work as an armorer. He joined the legion's retraining programme in August 1993 and less than three months later found a job as a photo lithographer.

Mr Phillips, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, said: "It's a great life when you are in the forces, but when you leave you are on your own. The British Legion was a huge help, boosting my morale and motivating me to go and get a job. People think that it

is just a bunch of veterans marching on poppy day."

Since 1945 nearly 3,000 servicemen have been killed in action and at present 25,000 people leave the services every year to seek a living as civilians. Lord Kingsdown, president of The Royal British Legion Industries and former Governor of the Bank of England, said: "All the time the need for our assistance is growing, not diminishing. In 15 years' time the number requiring practical assistance is likely to have doubled."

Employers struggle to find quality graduates

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS are struggling to recruit high-quality graduates in spite of the big increase in the number of young people going to university, according to a study published yesterday.

The Association of Graduate Recruiters, which represents 500 big employers, said that one in five organisations was left with unfilled vacancies last year because applicants often fell short of the required standard. The problem was most acute in science and engineering, with companies refusing to take graduates with poor communication skills.

Kate Orebi Gann, recruitment manager of Marks and Spencer and the association's chairman, said: "Employers receive 100 or more applications for each vacancy but they are still having trouble finding the right graduate for the job." The proportion of employers suffering a recruitment shortfall was expected to decline from 13 per cent in 1993 as the number of graduates available increased by 12 per cent last year to a record 182,000.

Roly Cockman, executive secretary of the association, said that employers were growing more demanding as the supply of graduates expanded. The class of 1994 had not performed any worse academically, but organisations were seeking people with extra skills, work experience and outside interests.

Mr Cockman said that some students were being wrongly advised to concentrate on their studies at university because a strong degree was the best way to enhance their job prospects. "Employers actually want people with transferable skills such as good communication, business awareness and the ability to work in a team."

Yesterday's report, based on responses from 282 public and private sector recruiters, found that the number of graduates who found jobs increased by 2.4 per cent last year. The typical starting salary was 13.8 per cent, up 3.8 per cent.

School test dispute widens NUT split

The split in the National Union of Teachers widened yesterday as left-wingers revolted against a leadership campaign to call off its boycott of national tests. A group formed to rally teachers and parents behind the two-year boycott claimed the support of more than a third of the national executive. Fifteen members have urged teachers to vote to continue industrial action in a ballot this month.

The move by the group came as papers were sent to 160,000 teachers in a ballot in which members are recommended to co-operate with this summer's tests. It overshadowed a leadership attempt to claim that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, had offered further concessions in an attempt to win classroom peace. Carole Regan, NUT vice-president and a leading member of the group, condemned efforts to scrap the boycott as naive.

War crimes unit denial

Scotland Yard has denied reports that its war crimes unit will be disbanded when Home Office funding ends in March. Commander Roy Ramm, head of specialist CID operations, said yesterday that it would close only once all seven prosecutions under consideration were completed or discontinued. Funds would be found from a fresh application to the Home Office or from the Yard's budget.

£1.3bn rise in crime

Figures showing a £1.3 billion rise in the value of stolen property were released by Labour yesterday as evidence of the Government's failure to combat crime. Statistics based on official figures showed that the value of property stolen in England and Wales rose by 62 per cent above inflation between 1988 and 1993 to £3.5 billion. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Humberside saw the biggest increases.

Shuttle extended

Le Shuttle trains are now operating a 24-hour-a-day car passenger service through the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, has extended services after more than 12,000 reservations were made in the last two weeks of December. Tickets still have to be bought in advance but Eurotunnel admitted that there was still space for customers without reservations.

Hostage to be treated

Paul Ride, the freed Iraqi hostage, was ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment for post traumatic stress syndrome when he appeared before Waltham Forest magistrates, east London, accused of trying to burn down his home in a suicide attempt. Mr Ride, 35, is charged with arson with intent to endanger life. He was remanded on unconditional bail until January 25.

First gene-altered food

Britain's first genetically engineered foods will be in the shops this year after a decision by agriculture ministers yesterday to approve sauces and pastes made from gene-altered tomatoes. The move is opposed by critics who fear that a gene carried by the tomatoes, engineered to rot more slowly, will lead to resistance to drugs such as those used to fight tuberculosis in people and animals.

Meningitis girl buried

Three hundred mourners filled St Margaret's Church, Rotherham, East Sussex, for the funeral of Emma Harris, a girl aged five who died on Boxing Day from meningitis. Sally and David Harris, her parents, were joined at the graveside by Alan and Elizabeth Yates, whose daughter Alexandra died at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, from the same bug on the eve of her classmate's funeral.

Man's ditch ordeal

A retired headmaster spent more than nine hours trapped in the freezing cold after his van careered into a ditch. Gordon Hurst, 61, of Leicester, escaped injury in the accident at Ilton on Tuesday near Aberford, West Yorkshire, but was wedged behind the steering wheel until police officers found him at 8.30 am yesterday. He is in hospital recovering from hypothermia. Forecast, page 24

Scott's camp rusts

Captain Scott's base camp, literally frozen in time for more than 80 years, is starting to rust because the Antarctic summers are getting warmer. The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust has launched an appeal to save the camp, at Cape Evans on Ross Island, which Scott left in 1912 for his ill-fated journey to the South Pole, because water is rusting the stove and beds. Features, page 16, Letters, page 19

Trouble on the buses

More than 100 dismissed bus drivers offered free services to customers in Chelmsford, Essex. The drivers, members of the transport workers' union, operated 15-seat minibuses minutes ahead of Eastern National vehicles on the best routes through the town. Bill Morris, the union general secretary, said the men had been dismissed for legally disputing company orders for a longer working day.

RUC faces public scrutiny on future

BY JOHN HICKS

THE most comprehensive community consultation project into the future of policing in Northern Ireland was launched by the Province's police authority yesterday. It follows a call at the weekend from Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, for the Government to set up a commission to examine police structures for Northern Ireland.

The future of the 13,000-strong force, staffed predominantly by Protestant officers, is expected to be one of the key political issues during the coming year. Nationalist leaders have called for radical reform of the force to make it more acceptable to the minority community. With this in mind all political parties, churches, trade unions, community bodies and individuals will be lobbied by the police

authority over the next four months. At the end of the consultation period, the authority will produce a report for Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State.

David Cook, the Northern Ireland Police Authority chairman, said the consultation project should help the RUC evolve into a "broadly based partnership" to serve the community for the next 20 years. He strongly denied allegations that the authority's project would undermine the morale of the RUC. Sir Patrick Mayhew last night set up an independent inquiry into the fire at Stormont on Monday. It will be led by Sir Reginald Doyle, former Chief Inspector of Fire Services, who will examine the building's fire safety precautions and fire-fighting arrangements.

Britain's women workers face uphill struggle to close the gender pay gap

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

THE old-boy network and other factors that accelerate men's careers continue seriously to hinder the progress of women and cost them thousands of pounds a year in pay, according to research published yesterday. The findings coincide with the publication of data showing that the struggle to close the gender pay gap faces more determined resistance in Britain than in almost every other European country.

Dr Tuvia Melamed, a psychologist at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, said that sex discrimination accounted for 60 per cent of the wage gap between men and women. Informal networking was also responsible: important business decisions taken at men-only social clubs, on the golf course or at the pub were blocking the progress of women workers.

Personality and family circumstances were other fac-

tors: men were more likely to be successful if they were extroverted and independent — personality attributes that did not influence women's careers.

Dr Melamed surveyed the jobs of 480 full-time employees aged 18 to 64. The average salary of women questioned was £13,500 a year, compared to £18,000 for men.

He said: "Organisations today are still run by men and firms often adopt equal opportunities for political correctness rather than because they care for women. Many organisations have an equal opportunities officer, but it is usually a facade."

Dr Melamed, who presented his findings to the British Psychological Society's occupational psychology conference at Warwick University yesterday, said the success of women at work tended to be attributed to luck rather than ability. He found there was little women could do to avoid sex discrimination at work.

Even when their professional and personal attributes were rated equal to or higher than men's, their wages and perceived managerial potential remained lower. The latest Bulletin on Women and Employment in the European Union, published by the European Commission, shows British women's monthly earnings for non-manual jobs in industry in 1991 were 58 per cent of their male counterparts' salaries, compared to 67 per cent in France. Only Luxembourg, at 55 per cent, was worse than Britain. In insurance, the British figure was 57 per cent against 78 per cent in Germany.

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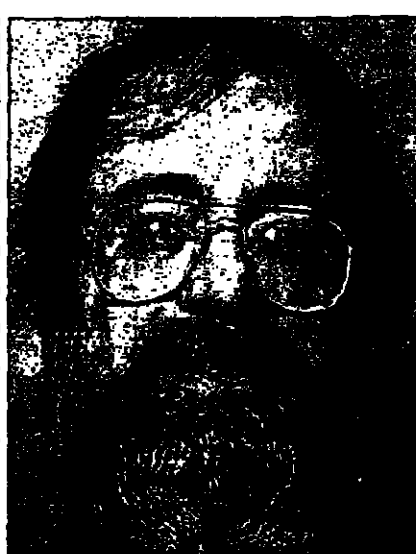
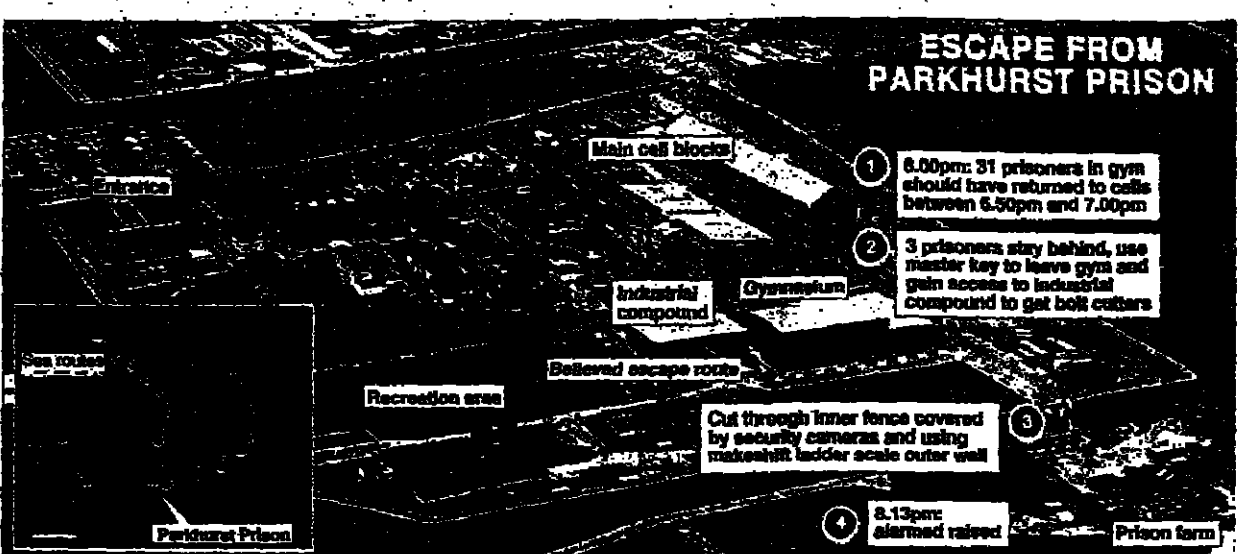
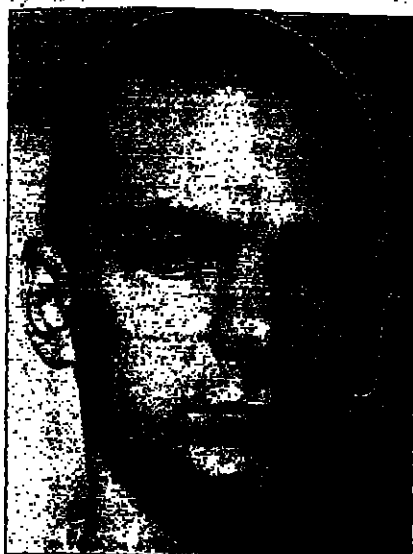
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Immediate threat from Parkhurst prisoners could be greater than that of IRA escapers at Whitemoor



Matthew Williams, left, who wanted to destroy the human race. He escaped with Andrew Rodger and Keith Rose, far right, both jailed for murder, using a copy of a master key and a makeshift ladder

Fugitives' grim record of death and destruction

By STEWART TENDLER
AND KATE ALDERSON

A SCIENCE student who plotted to eradicate the human race with bombs and poison and a killer who who convicted him were on the run last night after the Parkhurst Prison breakout. The third fugitive was a burglar who battered to death a nightwatchman who disturbed him.

As police yesterday urgently contacted anyone who might be at risk from the men, a prison security expert said the potential immediate risk could be higher than the threat from the five IRA men who attempted to escape from Whitemoor Prison last year.

One of the fugitives, Matthew Williams, 25, also tried to escape less than 18 months ago. On his

way to Parkhurst from Long Lartin Prison, he produced a hypodermic needle which he claimed was infected with the Aids virus.

The prison van drove to a police station near Oxford, as Williams threatened a prison officer with the needle. He tried to run away, dragging the handcuffed officer with him, and had to be subdued by officers with truncheons.

Williams displayed a morbid fascination with Hitler in his diaries and wrote of how he planned to invent a lethal plague which would wipe out the world, and of his intentions to pollute reservoirs with anthrax. In one diary entry he wrote: "I hate people. The majority I come into contact with are filthy, ignorant, aggressive scum who should not exist. I intend to destroy them all by whatever means I can." He studied

genetics and microbiology at Leeds University, where he was described as bright but lonely. While there he caused £180,000 of damage to a chapel in Leeds, stole cyanide from the science laboratories and told a careers advisor that he wanted a job in germ warfare.

During his three-year campaign of destruction Williams placed a nail bomb in a Liverpool street crowded with Christmas shoppers, tried to poison his family by injecting a tin of tomatoes with sodium chlorate and stole enough cyanide to kill 300 people. He fired a crossbow through a neighbour's window, tried to set fire to another neighbour's house with petrol and placed bombs in telephone kiosks.

Although Williams never injured anyone in his attacks he often wrote about killing people. When he was arrested police discovered a mini-



H.M.P. PARKHURST

laboratory in his bedroom including bomb-making equipment and a 5lb high home-made rocket, boxes of gunpowder, intricate time switches and a Geiger counter. A cache of weapons including knives, swords, imitation handguns and grenades were also uncovered.

At his trial in 1989 at Liverpool Crown Court, Williams, from Birkenhead, admitted 11 charges, including conspiracy to cause explosions, administering poison and arson. He was ordered to be

detained for life. Passing sentence, Mr Justice Rose told him: "You are clearly a clever, highly intelligent and articulate young man. You clearly have the ability and the intention, it seems to me, of creating what you call mayhem. You were at best indifferent to the death of other people and at worst you looked to bring it about."

Keith Rose, 45, was jailed for life in 1991 for the murder of Julie Rowe, wife of a supermarket manager. Mr Justice Ognall described the violence he used as "the callous, brutal act of an executioner".

Saddled with £80,000 business debts and in danger of losing his home, Rose hatched a plot to kidnap Mrs Rowe at her isolated home in Budleigh Salterton, Devon, in 1981. He posed as a telephone engineer to get into her home but his plan came unstuck when his

terrified victim tried to escape. As Mrs Rowe, 42, pressed a panic button Rose shot her four times in the back and then, as she lay wounded, shot her through the head and heart.

Although questioned at the time, he was not detained until 1989 when he was arrested for kidnapping the son of a former employer, a food millionaire, and demanding a £1 million ransom. For five days he held Victor Cracknell, 32, gagged and blindfolded with a wire noose around his neck, intending to strangle him if he tried to escape.

Detectives were convinced that Rose would have left his victim to starve to death, but he managed to free himself and escape. Rose was sentenced to 15 years for the kidnapping at the Old Bailey in 1990. Mrs Rowe's husband Gerald spotted his face on television and he

was subsequently tried for her murder at Exeter Crown Court.

Andrew Rodger is a Glaswegian who settled in east London. He was unemployed and a petty crook when in 1986 he broke into a swimming pool. He was interrupted by John Garrett, 58, whom he beat to death before stealing £21. Later he wrote to police anonymously claiming to be the murderer and was traced.

Yesterday former Detective Chief Superintendent Geoff Parratt, who arrested Rodger, said: "He is one evil bastard. John Garrett was a meek man and there was no need for the violence. It was absolutely horrendous; some of the worst injuries I have ever seen."

Locks changed, page 1
Prison Service warned, page 1
Leading article, page 19

Escapers had two-hour head start on police

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE three dangerous prisoners on the run from Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight were free for up to two and a quarter hours before their absence was noticed. They had time to flee the island by ferry, hydrofoil or catamaran, reaching the mainland before police were aware they were missing.

Keith Rose, 45, Andrew Rodger, 44, and Matthew Williams, 25, broke through an inner fence using stolen tools and scaled the outer wall with an improvised ladder. More than 200 police and officers from the island's three jails were searching for the men yesterday. The hunt has been extended across the Solent to the south coast of England. Armed officers from the tactical firearms unit were on hand.

The jailbreak was ingenious and obviously well planned, according to Nigel Mason, spokesman for the Prison Officers' Association at Parkhurst. The prisoners were among 31 men who began an hour-long exercise period in the gymnasium at 6pm.

They either hid behind gym mats when the others left or slipped through a back door using a replica of a skeleton key that can open most gates in the prison. The escapers then ran 150 yards to a vocational training workshop which they opened using their key. Inside, they pieced together a 25-foot ladder using sections constructed during

Parkhurst is one of six top security prisons in England and Wales designed to hold some of the country's most dangerous criminals, including Mafia gangsters and IRA terrorists. Three years ago the Isle of Wight jail held 200 prisoners, of whom 40 were serving life and 14 were on parole.

In 1992 police and prison officers thwarted an escape attempt by Gilbert McNamee, Patrick McLaughlin and Peter Sherry, three convicted IRA terrorists. Sherry and McNamee were involved in the escape from Whitemoor jail in September.

metalwork lessons and hidden around the building. They stole tools and were able to cut through the inner perimeter fence which is 17 feet tall and cannot be scaled because it is topped with razor wire.

The mesh fence is supposed to be equipped with sensors which not only tell the control room that it has been broken, but can pinpoint the area where the breach has occurred. By remote control, the video cameras placed high and low around the perimeter can then be trained to follow an escaper as he flees and zoom in on him to get a closer view. Whether the sensors

failed or were not noticed by staff is not clear. The men then crossed a 17-foot secure area, which should be patrolled by dog handlers, and reached the wall. Until an escape in the mid-1970s, this was a fence, but concrete was pumped into it to form a more solid barrier.

At the top of the wall is a "beak", which juts inwards by six feet to make it almost impossible to climb. Using their homemade ladder, the men were easily able to overcome that hurdle, and then slid down a steel rope, evading more dog handlers, to freedom. The police learnt of the escape only at 8.15pm on Tuesday, after a prison dog found a hole in the fence. An emergency roll call quickly established that the three lifers were missing.

A major hunt began on Tuesday evening by police, backed by prison officers, on foot and from the air using thermal imaging equipment. At one point a farmhouse between Parkhurst and Cowes was surrounded after a couple returned home, during the night to find that an outbuilding had been broken into.

At road blocks, police searched the insides of lorries and even car-boats for the men. On parts of the island, there were two policemen stationed every 400 yards watching for signs of the escapers. Islanders seemed calm, reasoning that if the men had taken such pains to prepare their escape, they would also have arranged transport to the mainland.

Gloucester bodies released for burial

THE bodies of all 12 alleged victims of Frederick West are to be released for burial and a coroner is to hold inquests on at least three of them.

Gloucestershire Police said: "The Gloucester coroner is writing to the relatives to inform them they can now go ahead with funeral arrangements. This is sure to be of great comfort to the families."

The release of the remains by David Gibbons, the Gloucester District Coroner, had been delayed by West's change of lawyers and other factors. Mr Gibbons said: "The reasons for the delay are best known to those who were defending Mr West."

West, who committed suicide on Sunday, was charged alone with the murder of his first wife Catherine, their daughter Charmaine and Anne McFall, a Scottish nanny. There can now be no criminal verdict on their deaths so an inquest will be held to determine how they died. The deaths of the other nine remain the subject of murder charges against West's wife Rosemary.

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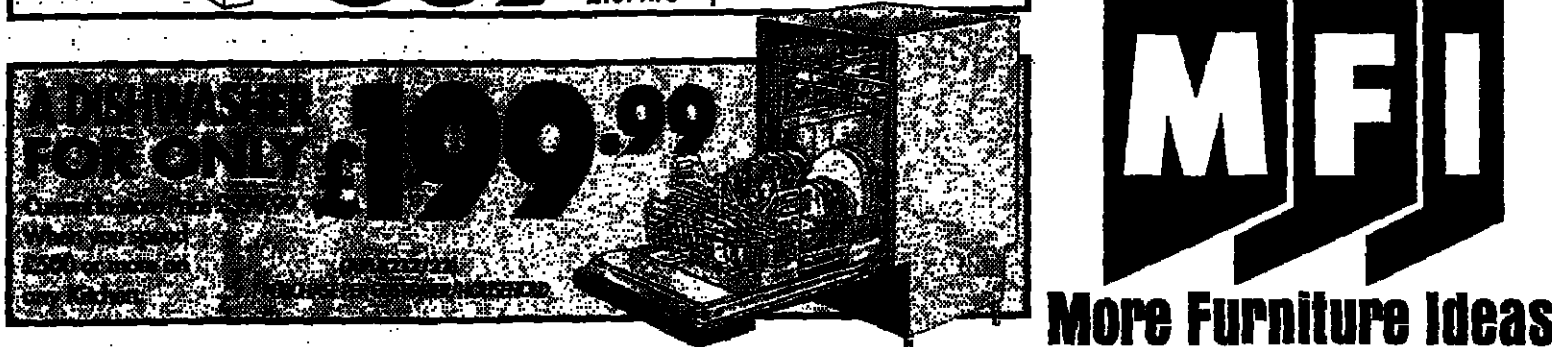
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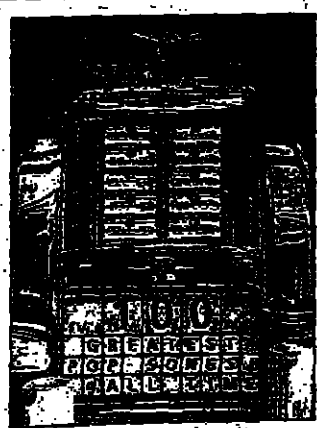


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Justice catches up with colourful fugitive who spent ten years living the high life on Costa del Sol

Knight sentenced to seven years for role in £6m robbery

By RICHARD DUCE

RONNIE KNIGHT, the colourful villain who for a decade lived the high life in Spain on the proceeds of a £6 million robbery, was jailed for seven years yesterday by an Old Bailey judge.

Knight, 60, received more than £300,000 as his share of the cash from the 1983 Security Express raid — then the largest haul in British criminal history — but all the money has now been frittered away.

The former husband of the actress Barbara Windsor was arrested at Luton airport after returning voluntarily to Britain last May. His exact involvement in the meticulously planned robbery almost 12 years ago was not resolved during his two-hour appearance in court.

Knight, who appears to have aged considerably since



Det Supt Malone: "The investigation goes on"

his return from Spain, showed no emotion as he was jailed for handling £314,813 in stolen money. His not-guilty plea to taking part in the robbery itself was accepted by the prosecution.

In all, £5,961,097 was stolen and only some £2 million was

ever recovered, none of it from Knight. Judge Gordon said: "You benefited by an enormous amount and not one penny has been recovered. I know not what your precise role was in the matter but I do know that professional robbers such as those involved here will not hand over to anyone the sort of money you got — a similar sum to the actual robbers — unless the person to whom they give it is very deeply involved."

Knight's two brothers, John and James, were jailed in 1985 for their part in the robbery on Easter Monday, 1983, when a guard was doused in petrol and threatened with incineration by the nine-man gang unless he handed over the key to the vault of the Security Express headquarters in Shoreditch, London.

Ronnie Knight fled to Spain in January 1984 the day after his brother John was arrested.



Knight, front left, at his Spanish villa, sitting in front of his brother John. Freddie Foreman is on the right. Knight and wife Susan, right



Until yesterday he had claimed he was innocent of any involvement. Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, told how within days of the robbery Knight started depositing money with Fox Associates, the accountancy firm that acted for Miss Windsor. Mr Worsley emphasised that Miss Windsor had no knowledge of the transactions and the firm had no idea the money was stolen.

By the end of 1983 Knight's

marriage to Miss Windsor was effectively over and he was having an affair with Susan Haylock. Knight used her to transfer money from Britain to Spain.

A warrant for her arrest is still outstanding. Miss Haylock, 42, and now the third Mrs Knight after marrying him in 1987, is said to be living on a "modest income" on the Costa del Sol.

There are also warrants out for Clifford Saxe, John Mason

and Ronald Everett, all believed to be living in Spain, and said to be involved in the robbery. The judge said he could not make a compensation order against Knight, who has been in custody as a category A prisoner, ever since he was accompanied back from his villa in Spain by representatives of The Sun.

However, the judge said, it did not preclude Security Express pursuing a case for compensation against Knight

in the civil courts. After the case, Detective Superintendent Iain Malone said the Flying Squad was committed to carrying on its investigation until all those involved were caught.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, said that Knight, apart from returning to "clear the books and try at long last to come to terms with what he was involved in", also wanted to see his mother Nellie. She is now 90, suffering from Par-

kinson's disease and in a nursing home. He said newspaper images over the years of Knight as a "swashbuckling figure basking in the sun" were a far cry from the figure he cut today.

Miss Windsor, who is starring in pantomime at Basingstoke, Hampshire, was asked if she had any comment to make on the sentence handed down to the man who was her husband for 23 years. She replied: "No, dear."



Barbara Windsor and Ronnie Knight in 1980

Yesterday's man washed up on the Costa del Crime

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AT 10pm on January 22, 1984, Ronnie Knight telephoned his wife, the Carry On actress Barbara Windsor, from Barcelona airport to announce he was on the run.

His brother John had been arrested for the theft of £6.3 million in cash from a Security Express depot. As a tearful Miss Windsor put down the telephone in London her husband caught a flight for Malaga and a new life as crown prince of the Costa del Crime.

Last night, broke and ageing, Knight began a seven-year sentence. One senior detective acknowledged that Knight had been "big league, mixing and brokering with top league criminals in Spain". But, said the officer, "he had no money and the pressure was on him out there."

Knight, a friend of the Kray twins, could not keep pace with the new world of drugs and guns among the expatriate criminals. In public he raised a champagne glass for passing tabloid photographers and acted the dapper host at his Costa del Sol nightclub R. Knight's. Behind the scenes Scotland Yard kept the pressure on him, encouraging the Spanish to make his life a misery. His criminal career started in the 1950s. Convicted in his teens as a petty thief, Knight

Marbella. He also bought a town house. With his new life came a new wife. Knight divorced Miss Windsor for Susan Haylock, a former barmaid at one of his clubs.

By now, Freddie Foreman and Clifford Saxe, the pub in Kingsland Road, Hackney, where the £6 million robbery was allegedly planned, had arrived on the Costa. Ronald Everett and John Mason bought houses in Marbella. With Knight, they made up the Famous Five.

Detective Superintendent Peter Wilton and two officers from the Security Express squad spent weeks on the Costa del Sol tracking their men. When extradition arrangements were renewed and Spain passed new legislation controlling foreign residents, Knight was top of a list of criminals sought by the Yard. Mr Wilton retired but officers led by Detective Inspector Reid McGeorge refused to abandon the hunt.

Assiduously, Mr McGeorge built up a paper trail leading to Knight. Yet he carried on regardless. When he wasn't by his pool, he could be found on a sunlounger on the beach. But behind the veneer things were not going well. In 1986 he sold his properties. In 1990 he published his autobiography but he was rapidly going broke.

There were rumours he might come back. His last business venture was the disastrous R. Knight's.

On the club's opening night in October 1991 there was a stabbing. The place became a focal point for the worst of the Costa del Sol's criminal fraternity. Guns, drugs and money were the order of the day, not old-time robbers. Knight was beaten up twice.

Chief Inspector Francisco Lara of the Fuengirola CID offers one explanation for Knight's wish to return to England. "When he first turned up here, he was arrogant and rude. By the end he was like a puppy dog. Whistle and he would come. If Ronnie had stayed here, he would have ended up a lonely man with lots of problems."

6 By the end he was like a puppy. Whistle and he would come?

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'We believe in direct action. If that means smashing lorry windows to prevent loading, so be it'

Animal rights group quits port in face of militants

By Andrew Pierce and Michael Hornsby

A SERIOUS rift has developed among opponents of live animal shipments to Europe after militant "rent-a-mob" protesters hijacked an animal rights demonstration at a West Sussex port and clashed with police.

Compassion in World Farming, which had staged a peaceful two-month campaign at Shoreham, yesterday abandoned plans for any further demonstrations because of the violence that flared on Monday and Tuesday. However, an alliance of 12 animal rights groups from the South East poured scorn on CWF last night and vowed the campaign would continue.

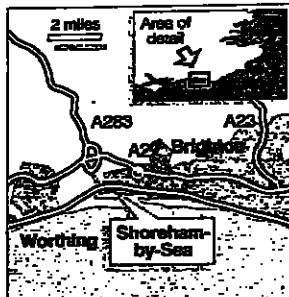
Philip Lacey, the port's chief executive, appealed to William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Secretary, to ban the export of livestock or provide proper protection for those engaged in the trade, who had been subjected to violence "verging on terrorism".

Mr Lacey said: "I am going

to raise merry hell if we are left in the lurch again. We are the piggy-in-the-middle in this situation and the minister must either change the law or uphold it. The violence on Tuesday night had all the hallmarks of professionally organised animal rights terrorists using the presence of a larger number of peaceful demonstrators as a cover."

As protesters again gathered late yesterday at the entrance to the harbour, Mike Nunn, secretary of the South East Animal Rights Coalition, said: "Our action has led on two successive nights to lorries loaded with calves and sheep being forced to turn away instead of being boarded on to a container ship."

"The demonstration is no longer anything to do with CWF. We believe in direct action. If that means smashing lorry windows to prevent convoys of animals being loaded on to ships, so be it. I was one of many hundreds of



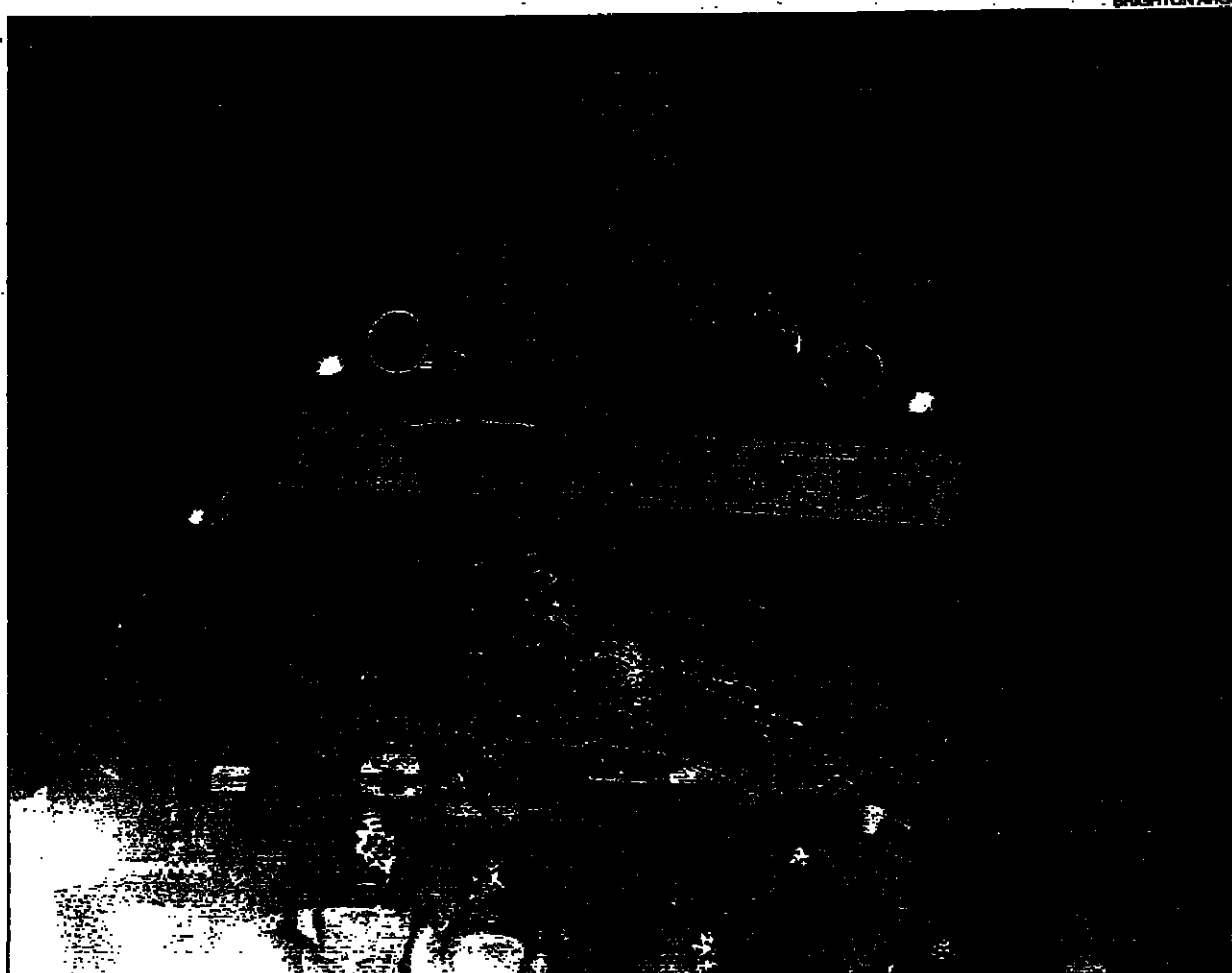
people who were proud to sit down in the road and block the path of these lorries." Violence flared on Tuesday night when a convoy of lorries tried to enter the small port for the second night running. Protesters leapt on to trucks, smashing lights and hurling stones through windscreens. Demonstrators, including children, threw themselves in front of lorries in an attempt to stop the animals from being loaded on to a ferry.

Joyce D'Silva, director of CWF, urged demonstrators to stay away from the port after their "peaceful action" had

been hijacked by hooligans who had abused her staff. She said: "We will not stage protests when there is a risk of them being hijacked by the rent-a-mob."

Police said two people were arrested on Tuesday night during clashes on the A259 approach road to Shoreham harbour after 500 demonstrators gathered to prevent eight lorries from loading calves and sheep onto a ferry to Dieppe. Three people were taken to hospital after being injured in scuffles. A number of police officers received minor injuries in the clashes.

Richard Childs, Assistant Chief Constable of West Sussex, yesterday defended what he called the "measured approach" taken by the police but said tougher action was now being considered. "I find the sheer gratuitous violence and vitriol from some of those who claim to care for the animals in the lorries they attacked very surprising and discreditable to the real respecters of animal rights."



A demonstrator attacks a livestock lorry from the cab roof during Tuesday night's violence at Shoreham

Geographers' conference

North-South gap splits academics

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE widely held belief that Britain is a nation of growing inequality was disputed by one academic but supported by another at the Institute of British Geographers' conference yesterday.

The view was based on income data that show the richest fifth of the population is gaining a growing share of disposable income, while the share of the poorest fifth is declining. Dr Daniel Dorling of the University of Newcastle said. Yet other data did not really confirm that.

"Education, car ownership, even the chance of being unemployed are far more

equally spread than they used to be," he said. "People's chances in life now depend much less on where they were born than they did in 1950."

He accepted that inequality might have grown during the 1970s and early 1980s but there was evidence now that the trend had gone into reverse. The recession had caused such damage in wealthier areas that inequalities had been reduced. "The housing market crash may have done more to promote equality than anything else in recent history, though hardly in a way the Government wants to boast about," Dr Dorling said.

"For most people in Britain injustice, as measured by geographical inequality, may not be increasing in terms of educational and employment opportunities, and in terms of the distribution of certain types of wealth," he said.

Professor Chris Hammett of King's College, London, presented a different view to the conference. He has analysed the regional impact of the 1988 cuts in higher rate income tax, and found that the South-East was the main beneficiary.

Although the region contained only 33 per cent of taxpayers, it gained 61 per cent of the £2.6 billion the Chancellor cut from tax bills because more higher-rate taxpayers lived in the South-East. "This was regional policy in reverse," he said. "It widened the gap between the North and the South."

Private rent revival fails to help needy

THE Government's attempt to revive privately rented housing has failed to help those most in need (Nigel Hawkes writes). A survey in Bath has shown that although properties for rent have doubled in the past five years, the number of single rooms and bed-sitters has declined, and while house prices have fallen, rents have risen.

Dr Janice Ross and Dr John Robb, of Bath College of Higher Education, said that

the biggest growth in rentals had been at the top of the market, in flats and houses commanding rents of £450 a month and more.

These were owned by people unable to sell, and offering them for rent until the market improved. But they were little help to the most disadvantaged groups: those unable to buy or pay high rents, and low on council lists — typically young, single people.



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Biggest survey since 1992 highlights disillusion with Government's performance

Labour eats into traditional core of Tory support

By PETER RIDDLEL

THE Tories have suffered their largest losses to Labour in their traditional heartlands of the southern middle classes, according to the largest survey of public opinion since the last election.

Over the past six months Labour has also advanced strongly at the expense of the Liberal Democrats in their

previous strongholds in the South West.

MORI, which conducts regular monthly polls for *The Times*, has aggregated its voting intention polls over the past year. This provides a total of over 52,000 which can be compared with the 22,700 interviewed in MORI's polls undertaken during the 1992

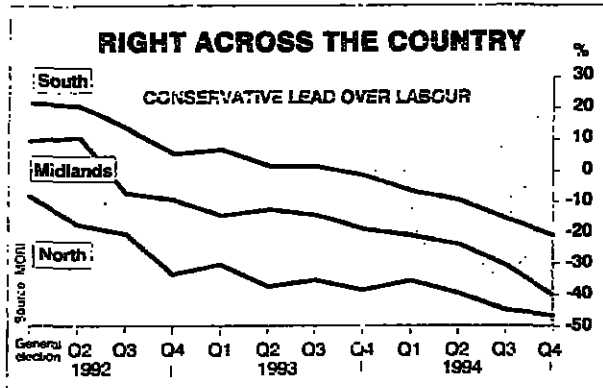
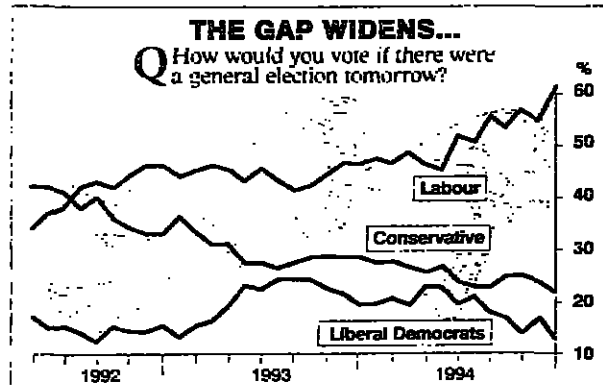
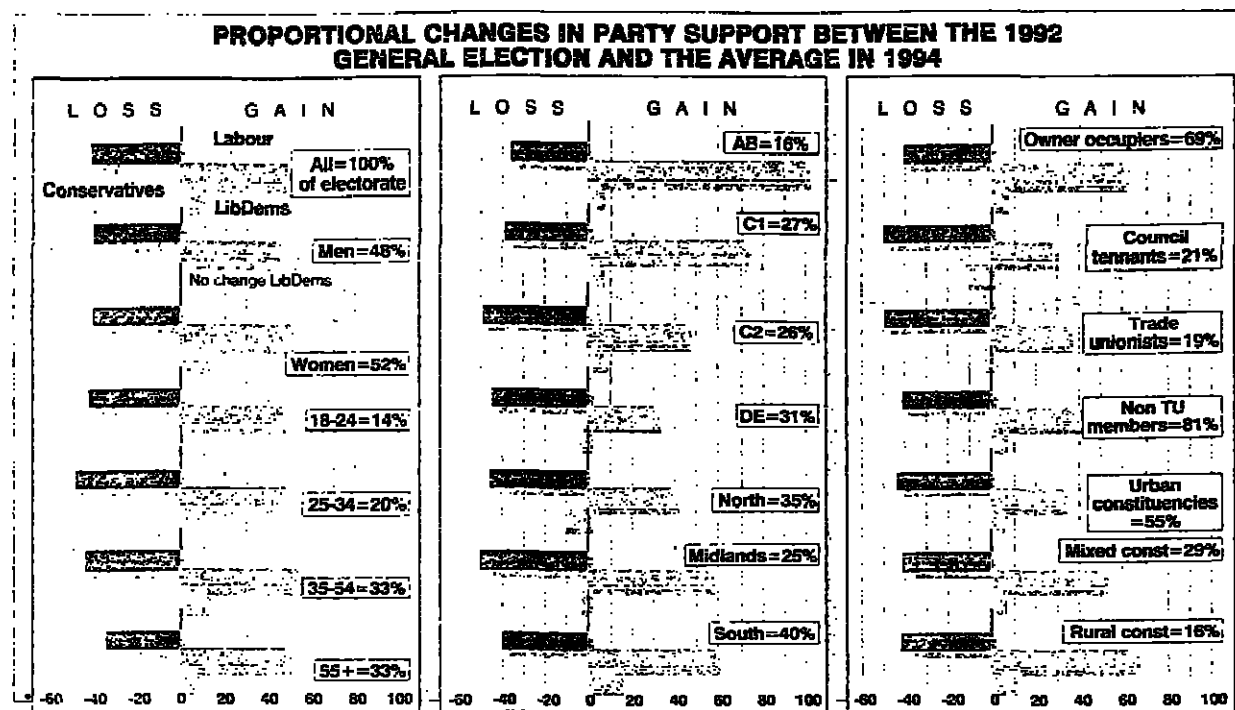
election campaign (adjusted to the final share of votes cast). This large aggregate provides greater insights into long-term trends and into the attitudes of particular groups of voters than is usually possible in the monthly polls.

The aggregate shows how the Tories have lost support, to an unprecedented extent, among their core voters. This underlines the extent of disillusion with the Government's performance.

Unlike previous periods of Tory unpopularity, there has been substantial switching by former supporters directly to Labour. In the past, former Tories have switched more to the Liberal Democrats than to Labour. But the latest MORI poll shows that some 16 per cent of those saying they voted Tory in 1992 now say they back Labour, with 14 per cent switching to the Liberal Democrats. Moreover, 25 per cent of those who say they voted Liberal Democrat in 1992 now support Labour. But there has been virtually no defection from Labour to either of the other two parties.

Robert Worcester of MORI says that the greatest swing away from the Conservatives to Labour has been in their heartlands — the middle-aged, middle classes, people in the South and readers of quality daily newspapers.

Since the 1992 election, there have been above-average swings of support from the Tories to Labour among those



aged 35 to 54, the middle classes, in southern England outside London, in holiday resorts and farming constituencies, and among readers of *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sun* and *Today*. The swing is highest among readers of *Today*, in part reflecting a change in that paper's character to support for Labour.

Much of that traditional support may switch back to the Tories as a general election approaches. But particularly worrying for Tory party strategists at present is the depth of its unpopularity among traditional supporters and the absence of any sign of a pick-up despite the growing evidence of economic recovery.

Taking 1994 as whole, which irons out any temporary fluctuation, support for the Tories among the middle classes, now 43 per cent of the electorate, is substantially below the mid-term low points of past parliaments. The Tory rating in this group was 33 per

cent last year, compared with 54 per cent at the 1992 election and 47 per cent in the first quarter of 1990, the Tory low point of the 1987-92 parliament. By contrast, Labour support in the middle classes has risen since the 1992 election from 22 to 41 per cent. Similarly, Tory support in the



Worcester: Tories losing middle-class voters

South, two-fifths of the electorate, is now a quarter below its previous low point five years ago. Between the 1992 election and last year the Tories' rating in the South fell from 46 to 29 per cent, while Labour advanced from 27 to 43 per cent.

It is a similar pattern among other groups such as owner occupiers and readers of quality newspapers. Labour has gained largely at the expense of the Tories, but also more recently by squeezing support for the Liberal Democrats to below its 1992 election level.

Among the findings is that the Liberal Democrats have lost support since 1992, particularly among women and people aged 35 to 54, groups where Labour has performed strongly.

Equally worrying for the Liberal Democrats is their recent loss of support in the South West, where their main hope of winning seats lies. Support for the party rose from 31 per cent in the region

at the general election to a peak of 45 per cent in the second quarter of 1993, staying at about 40 per cent for the following 12 months, before falling back to 29 per cent in the last three months of 1994. The main gainer in recent months has been Labour, whose support rose from 32 to 44 per cent in the South West between the second and fourth quarters of last year, compared with 19 per cent at the 1992 election.

In Greater London, Labour has risen from 37 per cent at the 1992 election to 59 per cent by the end of last year, almost entirely at the expense of the Tories.

□ MORI interviewed 52,161 adults face-to-face during 1994. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Party support figures exclude those who said they would not vote (9 per cent), were undecided (6 per cent) or refused to name a party (3 per cent).

Man jailed for pulling out baby's toenails

A GUARDSMAN who used pliers to tear out a baby's toenails yesterday at Exeter Crown Court.

Michael Pikesley, 25, whose duties included guarding Buckingham Palace, had been commended for his work with children while serving in Bosnia. Pikesley, of Honiton, Devon, was also jailed for an extra four months for "excessively snatching" the child in an incident ten months earlier.

His commanding officer, Major Brian Mather, told the court: "He showed a lot of compassion in Bosnia towards children." However, within two days of arriving back in England for Christmas leave in 1993 he pulled out two of the 16-month-old boy's toenails while babysitting. An hour after the attack, he played "This Little Piggy Went to Market" on the child's toes.

Judge Graham Neville said: "This was not temper at work but sadism — the desire to hurt other human beings. It must have hurt him agonisingly. You wanted to inflict extreme pain on that baby." Pikesley had denied causing grievous harm with intent. The child has made a complete recovery.

Fire death killers 'were after father'

THE murderers of a mother who was kidnapped and burnt to death may have been looking for her common-law husband, detectives said yesterday. Tracy Mertens, 31, of Rochdale, was found burning alive in a church graveyard in Easton, Cheshire, the day before Christmas Eve.

Detectives believe that Miss Mertens's killers were searching for her father, 31, the father of her two children. Det Supt Mick Holland said the killers may have been trying to make her tell where he was. "There could be a hundred reasons why they were looking for Mr Cavanagh," he said. "We are looking at all possibilities."

Londoners may be given right to elect capital government by PR

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE people of London could be given the opportunity to elect their own government by proportional representation under plans for a Greater London Authority to be introduced by Labour in office.

A "linear city" stretching from Heathrow to the eastern Docklands and taking in the core inner bor-

oughs, or an enlarged "greater London" using the M25 as a new boundary, are the most far-reaching options in a paper drawn up by Frank Dobson and Nick Raynsford, the party's environment and London spokesmen, for consultation within the party.

The idea of an authority elected by PR, mirroring Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament, is suggested as a means of bringing some stability

and strategic long-term planning to the governing of London while avoiding the charge that a linear city authority elected on the existing first-past-the-post system would be permanently Labour-controlled.

Mr Raynsford stressed yesterday that the paper proposed five options and did not favour any of them. That would be determined by the functions given to the authority. He said that if transport and planning

were regarded as the main functions, there was a case for enlarging the boundary of London to the M25. But if the main focus was economic there was a case for considering a core corridor or linear city. The other options were the old GLC boundary, the former London County Council and a new London and South East region. It is clear that the idea of a linear city linking into the East Thames corridor,

promoted by Michael Heseltine and supported by the Channel Tunnel high-speed line into east London, has strong support among Labour front-benchers and advisers. Powers would cover economic development, land use, transport, planning, fire, civil defence and the police. Housing and education would remain the responsibility of the boroughs. Outer London boroughs, such as Harrow, Barnet and Rich-

mond upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames and Sutton, would be excluded. Mr Raynsford said: "This is an options paper to form the basis of consultations before we draw up our policy before the general election. But everyone, apart from the Conservatives, now accepts the need for London to have its own voice. Business and industrial leaders, in particular, are keen."

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The people above saw an announcement in the USA similar to this one. Like millions of Americans, they played the State Lotteries. But unlike the vast majority, they acted when they saw the news. And that gave them an extra 'edge'... a scientific way to pick tickets. A 30-second system that gives a full 62% winning advantage. Yes, over six hundred percent!

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So if you're the type who distrusts advertising, here's where you move on to the rest of this newspaper. Cheerio!

Computer scientist gets his 7-year-old daughter to prove LOTTERY-BEATER

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But it got Ross thinking: could there be a scientific way of picking and perming lottery numbers? It took 12 months of night-and-day work in the computer laboratory to analyse thousands of lottery results.

And he succeeded. He developed a computer program that shows the precise area of lottery numbers to pick from and how you should bet them

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Original letter is available for inspection

However, there were three problems. You need a powerful computer. You need to be smart with computers. And because of the licensing deal arranged by the software distributors, you need £100 to buy the program. (If you're a computer wizard and you really want it, we can get it for you.)

So Avron Ross set himself a formidable task: make the system simpler to use. "Easy enough for my daughter," he said.

He brought in two Professors and the three of them eventually produced something that little Silly thought was a toy. She quickly figured out how to pick a set of lottery numbers.

Next Saturday Ross realised he had hit a big prize in the Massachusetts State Lottery. (Mrs Ross nearly drowned him when she discovered he hadn't bothered to bet on the numbers!)

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Investors lose £800m in old accounts to subsidise new savers

By ROBIN YOUNG

ABOUT 20 million savers are being deprived of an average of £40 a year by banks and building societies, according to the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?*

It is claimed that savers are losing out because their money is invested in low-interest accounts closed to new customers. *Which?* says that in effect existing customers are being used to subsidise higher rates offered to attract new savers.

It quotes the Leeds Building Society, which has scrapped its obsolete accounts and transferred customers to better-paying accounts, as estimating that 20 million savers with other banks and building societies are losing a total of £800 million a year as a result. The amount is likely to increase, the magazine points out, as interest rates rise.

Which? says that 1.3 million savers with the Woolwich Building Society's obsolete Share Account, which pays only 1 per cent interest, could be more than five times better off by switching to the society's Prime Gold Account, which pays up to 5.3 per cent interest.

The magazine, published today, also found that Abbey National's obsolete Saver and Seven Day accounts paid only 0.2 per cent interest, giving



Murphy: onus on savers to check interest rates

building societies should automatically transfer savers in obsolete accounts to equivalent or better accounts being offered to new investors, or ensure that the same rate of interest is paid on accounts broadly similar in their terms. "Failure to do this has never been justified," the magazine says.

It wants Brian Murphy, the building societies ombudsman, to insist that institutions compensate customers fully for lost interest when they have failed to draw attention to better terms available in more recently introduced accounts.

Mr Murphy has taken the view that the onus is on savers to keep up to date with interest rates, and does not think it necessary for customers to be individually notified of interest rate changes and new accounts which may leave their existing accounts at a disadvantage.

A couple with an obsolete Nationwide Bonus Builder Account visited branches of Nationwide seven times without being advised to change to a higher-paying account. The ombudsman backed Nationwide's refusal to compensate the couple for interest lost in the period after the society had started displaying rates of interest on obsolete accounts in its branches.



Pierce Brosnan, the next James Bond, and his step-daughter Charlotte at the opening of the winter sale

James Bond: licensed to open Harrods

NOT even the wail of Scots pipers could lure more than a handful of pre-dawn bargain-hunters to Harrods yesterday for the first day of the 101st winter sale (see page 10). By 9am, however, when shoppers were let in by Pierce Brosnan, 41, the new James Bond, and Mohammed Al Fayed, the store's colourful owner, the queue was snaking 100 yards down the road into Knights-

bridge, and numbered a little over 1,000. As Brosnan headed for the oyster and champagne bar, the gangs of photographers and camera crews who turn up each year, at least in part for the lavish breakfast and gift that Mr Al Fayed lays on for the media, searched in vain for the fabled frenzied tussles. Move? You could amble, actually, though Harrods says business was as good as ever, that

the tills were ringing up £1 million an hour and that one man splashed out £300 on socks.

Mariko Tawara was one of scores of Japanese in the shop. While her husband earned yen in the Nippon Credit Bank in the City, she was eyeing some Wedgwood crockery reduced to an improbable £161.50 per dinner plate and £766 per vegetable dish.

Monkey business and the calm sex

By NICK NUTTALL

A CLUE to why females tend to be less aggressive than males may have been provided by a 25-year scientific study of baboons.

Hot-tempered females tend to suffer more miscarriages and are less fertile than their more even-tempered sisters. The findings, published in *Nature* today, indicate that there is a strong evolutionary advantage for females to remain calm and collected if they want to pass on their genes to the next generation.

One of the scientists involved said: "Reproductive failure may serve as a widespread constraint on traits that promote antagonism. The rarity of mammalian species with such hyperaggressive females suggests that these constraints must be formidable."

The conclusions have come from studies of baboons in Gombe, Tanzania, by researchers at the Gombe Stream research institute and the University of Minnesota.

High-ranking female baboons, who make life a misery for their lowly sisters, get the pick of the food and the opportunity to mate more often. In theory aggression should mean they produce more offspring. But the research indicates that the more aggressive a female becomes the higher the "significant reproductive costs".

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In today's refresher column I want to describe the various different types of scoring used in bridge.

Chicago: I'm sure you are all familiar with normal rubber bridge scoring, but increasingly bridge clubs play "Chicago". In this form of the game each rubber is restricted to four hands. The deal rotates as normal. On the first hand no one is vulnerable, on the second and third hands the dealer's side is not vulnerable and the opponents are vulnerable. (Some clubs play the second and third hand vulnerabilities the other way round.) On the last hand everyone is vulnerable.

Each hand is scored separately (but part-scores are carried forward). Non-vulnerable games score 300 points, vulnerable games score 500 points. Small slams have a bonus of 500 and 750 respectively, and grand slams a bonus of 1,000 and 1,500. A part score made on the last deal has a bonus of 100 points.

Team matches: in matches between two teams, each deal or "board" is played twice. The "board" is a device used to preserve the North, South, East and West hands. The cards played are kept in front of the individual players, and returned to the board at the end of play. At the first table team A is North-South and its

opponents East-West, and vice versa at the second table. The points scored on the deal are calculated as for Chicago (except that part-scores are not carried forward, and score a bonus of 50 points).

It is usual to convert the difference in total points scored on the individual boards to International Match Points ("IMPs"), although some competitions are determined by the raw total points. The main effect of the conversion to IMPs is to dampen large swings — for example a difference of 20 total points is 1 IMP, 200 total points is 5 IMPs, and 2,000 total points is 19 IMPs. The idea is to avoid having a match decided by one lucky board.

Pairs tournaments: in these tournaments each deal is played several times. For each deal the scores at the various tables are ranked. The pairs are given two match points for each pair sitting in the same direction (ie North-South or East-West) that they beat. (Confusingly, these "match points" have nothing to do with "IMPs").

So if there were five tables in a Pairs event, the best North-South score (or "top") on a deal would get eight match points — the best pair has beaten four other pairs. As this would clearly be the worst East-West score, East-West at that table would score no points (a "bottom").

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hot pursuit

With two rounds of play remaining in the Vera Menchik memorial tournament in Hastings, the defending champion John Nunn is still in hot pursuit of Thomas Luther, his fellow grandmaster and German rival.

All games of round seven were drawn which means that going into the finishing straight, Luther has 5.5 points from 7 games to Nunn's 4.5. In round six, Nunn won the following fine game against Britain's top woman player, Susan Lalic.

White: John Nunn
Black: Susan Lalic
Hastings, January 1995

French Defence

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 Nf6
4 e5 Ne7
5 f4 c5
6 N3 Nd6
7 Be3 Bc5
8 Qc2 O-O
9 O-O a6
10 h4 Bxd4
11 Bxd4 b5
12 Bc3 Qa5
13 Na2 Nc4
14 Bg1 Rb6
15 Qe1 Rb7
16 Nc1 Rb8
17 h5 Rb8
18 Bg2 Rb8
19 N5 Q6

22 Nb3 a5
23 Bx4 d4
24 Nc5 Rb8
25 Nc4 Ne7
26 Nf6+ Kf8
27 Rf3 Rb8
28 Rb3 Rb8
29 Qc2 Rb8
30 Qc3 Nd5
31 Nc5 Bc5
32 Qb5 Bb6
33 Qb6 Qb6
34 Bxb6 a4
35 b5 a3
36 a3 Bg2
37 Bc5 Kf8
38 a4 Kf7
39 Bb4 Kf7
40 Bc3 Black resigns

Diagram of final position

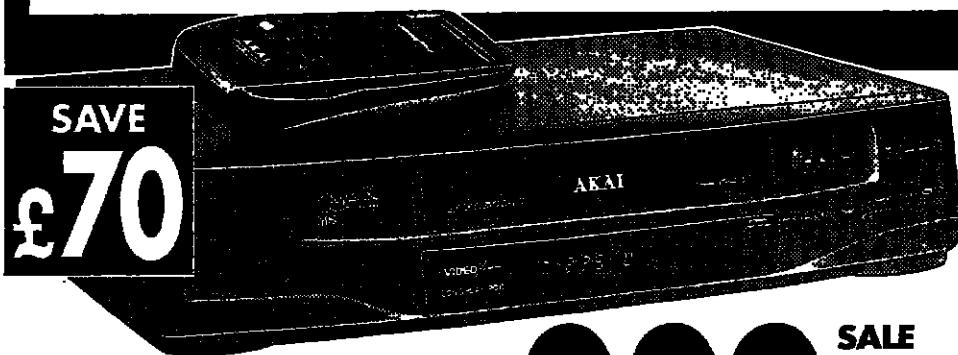
White: John Nunn
Black: Susan Lalic
Hastings, January 1995

Veteran's exploit
In the Challengers Section, also after seven rounds, the Russian grandmaster David Bronstein has moved into a share of the lead. In 1951 Bronstein challenged Botvinnik for the world championship and managed to tie the match at 12 points each. Bronstein was born in 1924.

Winning Move, page 48

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Passions run high as stadium tragedy trial commences

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRENCH commandos stood by in Corsica yesterday as 12 officials went on trial amid a wave of local murders and banditry for their part in the disaster of the Bastia football stadium collapse in 1992.

Relatives of the 17 dead and injured packed the city theatre for a video relay from the court. Armoured glass shielded the 12 who are charged with manslaughter or fraud and negligence. However, missing from the dock was the chief accused, Jean-François Filippi, the former president of the Bastia Sporting Club, who was shot dead on December 26 in the penultimate of Corsica's 39 murders of 1994, a rate six times that of the mainland.

The latest surge of violence and banditry in the turbulent island is seen as closely linked to the alleged greed, corruption and political rivalry which drove the Bastia club, businessmen and officials to set the scene for inevitable disaster in May 1992. Only days after the collapse, seen live on television, investigators blamed most of the accused for hastily ordering the construction of a scaffolding grandstand. The edifice was designed and built in the week before Bastia was to face Olympique de Marseille in the French cup semi-final. All normal procedures and safety precautions were neglected as a "mafia" of local interests knocked up the new stand, which was to seat 10,000 of the spectators who flocked to the stadium at Furiani, south of Bastia, the inquiry found.

"The collapse was inevitable," the official report said. The collapse inflicted further misery on the 230,000 population of an island which has long suffered the consequences of a culture given to political separatism and blood feuds. The trial has focused attention on the failure of successive governments to calm the violence which has relegated Corsica to the status of an underdeveloped territory. Recently, Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister and a Corsican by origin, exchanged messages with the "historic FLNC", the most violent wing of the banned nationalist movement. Older nationalists say the group, dominated by trigger-happy youths, is responsible more for gangsterism than rebellion and accuse M Pasqua of manipulating it to eradicate the independence movement.

The pro-government *Le Figaro* said yesterday: "If we do not want to accept Corsica becoming a mafia society, it is time for the state to stop hiding its face and to start applying the laws of the Republic there... It is more than time for the population to put an end to the law of silence which is only encouraging banditry and terrorism."

France to tighten security in Algeria

FROM AFP IN PARIS

FRANCE is to take extra security measures to protect its embassy and consulates in Algeria and the air and sea links with its former colony in the wake of the hijacking of a French airliner by Algerian Islamic guerrillas, according to Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister.

He said yesterday that French security experts would go to Algeria soon to look at security at Houari Boumedienne airport, Algiers, where the hijack of an Air France Airbus 300 began on December 24. New measures at France's embassy and consulate will also be studied.

The German Government said yesterday that Germany, Britain and the United States should co-operate to find a common response or joint action to an ultimatum on Tuesday from the radical Armed Islamic Group for them to close their embassies in Algeria within four days or face the death "in cold blood" of all non-Muslims.



The Gauloise-tinged voice of Serge Sauvion, left, has kept Peter Falk's *Columbo* a French hero for 25 years



French dubbing actors throw down the script

BY CHARLES BREMNER

IF *Frankenstein* sounded Belgian when the film opened in Paris last night, the French have only their unions to blame. With other movies and dozens of soap operas, Kenneth Branagh's film was taken hostage in a 10-week strike by the French actors who dub foreign entertainment into the language of Molière.

The dubbers' strike was suspended on Tuesday pending a judge's mediation, leaving actors and distributors to count the cost of a bitter dispute which has produced death threats, a hunger strike, and a dilemma for a Government eager to hold back the Hollywood stampede over the Gallic industry.

In dispute is a claim for royalties by about 600 performers whose names mean little but whose voices are known to France as those of the megastars from Schwarzenegger to Stone or television heroes from J.R. Ewing to Columbo. Paid 34 francs (£4) a line, the "voices" say they want respect and a slice of the billions of francs earned by video sales.

Like everything else involving the Seventh Art in France, it has been taken seriously.

Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister, has stepped in to assure the voices that they enjoy the status of performing artists rather than extras.

The dubbing actors say that their skill is as noble as those of the faces they double. Since 90 per cent of French audiences choose the dubbed version to subtitles, they point out that neither Jerry Lewis nor Woody Allen would have made it as great Gallic stars had Jacques Dynam and Bernard Murat not given them voice. In rare cases, the dubbers are celebrities. Gérard Depardieu, for example, was once John Travolta, and he stood in for Branagh in *Henry V*. Depardieu is one of a dozen local stars who have respected the dubbers' picket.

Edgar Givry, who is William Hurt and Jeremy Irons and was due to play Robert de Niro as *Frankenstein*, even places the *doublé* above the original. "In the *commedia dell'arte* or Greek tragedy, the actors played in masks," he notes. "The main instrument was the voice. If the eyes are the windows of the soul, the voice is its door."

For the French release, the *Frankenstein* distributors went to Brussels for the job.

Other new films have missed the holiday season, and television has been forced to run repeats of much-loved hits.

The companies which dub hundreds of films and thousands of television hours a year are accusing the actors of greed, which has forced them near bankruptcy. "It beggars belief when you realise that their salaries are between 20,000 and 50,000 francs a month and the strike leaders are at the top of the pyramid," says Philippe Taieb, head of Dubbing Brother, the biggest company.

The actors are playing the patriotic card. Serge Sauvion, whose Gauloise-tinged voice has kept Peter Falk's *Columbo* a French hero for 25 years, says cheap rebroadcasting not only deprives French actors of an income but uses time that could be devoted to the transmission of new French films.

Many in the film business have little sympathy, however, given the ever-swelling call for the *doublé*. Recent figures show that 1993 was the most miserable so far for the once proud French industry. Only 30 per cent of the box office went to native films, with almost all the rest going to the Americans.

Franco-German coolness dominates EU agenda

FROM GEORGE BROCK AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

AUSTRIA, Finland and Sweden rang in the new year this week by joining the European Union, raising its membership to 15.

However, the key to European integration in the run-up to next year's inter-governmental conference lies less on the fringes of an expanded EU than in the increasing coolness between its two core members: France and Germany.

In the early months of last year the Governments of France and Germany trumpeted the fact that they would take the chair of the EU for two successive six-month turns and run an activist "joint" presidency of the Union. Bold agendas would be pushed, problems solved and Britain would often be isolated.

At the half-way mark, as Germany hands over the baton to France this week, the performance of the "joint" presidency has fallen far short of its promise. No French or German politician has used the phrase for months.

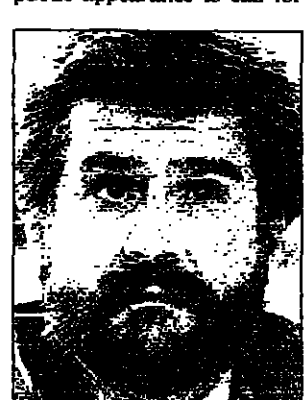
All eyes are now on France, which elects a new President in early May. Federalist hopes have already been dashed by Jacques Delors's decision not to run. If the President turns out to be Edouard Balladur, the present Prime Minister, however, the French drive towards a single currency will hardly slacken pace at all. If Jacques Chirac beats him to the Elysée, the fervour will be more muted.

German politicians, however, see things differently. Last year Karl Lamers, the leading Christian Democrat spokesman on Europe in the Bundestag, set out the requirements for the political union that would be needed to underpin a monetary union. His vision of a future EU taking decisions

on war and peace, immigration, tax and welfare by majority vote is violently unwelcome in France.

In the meantime, the European Parliament held US Senate-style confirmation hearings of the new European Commissioners yesterday, in a symbolic display of the powers granted under the Maastricht Treaty.

The procedure began with three candidates, who included Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Economics Commissioner-designate. He used his first public appearance to call for



Marin: faced "more brutal" questioning

the final stage of economic and monetary union as early 1997. The forthright views of M de Silguy, who will hold one of the most controversial portfolios in the new Commission, promise conflict with the British and the German Governments, which both favour a more cautious and economically conservative approach.

The hearings, which will last until Tuesday, are largely symbolic because the European Parliament does not have to right to vote on individual commissioners: it must content itself with a

single block vote on the entire Commission, scheduled for January 18.

M de Silguy held out a "Big Bang" scenario for the introduction of the single currency, under which the European currency unit (ecu) would become the single unit of transaction on a given date, probably one or two years after the beginning of the final stage of monetary union. He said that would require preparatory work by the European Monetary Institute, which was set up last year as a front-runner institution to a future European central bank.

In the hearing concerning Manuel Marin, Commissioner-designate in charge of the southern Mediterranean and Latin American, the MEPs were urged by the committee chairman to ask more lively and "more brutal" questions. Marcellino Oreja, re-nominated as Spanish Commissioner in charge of institutional affairs, and the third commissioner to face MEPs questions yesterday, took over ten minutes, including anecdotes and digression, before he failed to answer the simple question whether he was in favour of reducing the number of commissioners before the next round of enlargement.

Sir Leon Brittan, re-nominated as Trade Commissioner, will face the foreign affairs committee today and Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner-designate, will appear before the economics committee next Tuesday. □ Bratislava: Slovakia will submit its application for entry to the EU before the end of the year, a government official said yesterday. The country has an association agreement with the EU, but Brussels has set no target date for full membership. (Reuters)

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EVERYTHING REDUCED EXCEPT THE QUALITY

OSCE ministers to hold emergency talks on Chechenia

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is to hold an emergency meeting next week to discuss ways of helping to stop the fighting in Chechenia.

The decision comes amid increasing concern in the West at the bloody conflict in the breakaway republic and after strong pressure by France on Moscow for an explanation of its actions. Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, urged France's European Union partners yesterday to demand that President Yeltsin respect the code of conduct Russia signed at last month's summit in Budapest of the OSCE, the pan-European security organisation previously known as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The 53-member OSCE will meet next Thursday to discuss the fighting and may decide to send a fact-finding mission to Russia. Normally such missions can begin work only at the invitation of the state concerned, but the organisation is also empowered to investigate a dispute if neighbouring countries say their security is imperilled.

Britain strongly supports the French initiative and has been in close touch over Chechenia with the French, who hold the presidency of the European Union. The Foreign Office said no formal approach had been made to Moscow, but Sir Brian Fall, the British Ambassador to

Moscow, has expressed Britain's deep concern to the Russian leadership.

M Juppé made a veiled threat in a radio interview yesterday that France and other Western nations might halt their aid to Russia if the Kremlin continues its assault. Although he conceded that Chechenia was a Russian internal affair, M Juppé said: "We have given a lot of money to Russia and we have pledged

Jobless total is put at 5m

Moscow: Unemployment in Russia is more than three times the official figure and will soon be the country's greatest social problem, Gennadi Melikyan, the Labour and Employment Minister, told Tass news agency yesterday. Around 15 million people in Russia are officially registered as unemployed, but Mr Melikyan maintained that the real figure was around 5.1 million. (Reuters)

to back its candidature for the Council of Europe." The American State Department said the Administration had expressed concern about the tactics used, and criticised the Russian Army for "indiscriminate use of force in individual instances".

United Nations officials in Geneva expressed frustration at the bureaucratic delays holding up the sending of an expert team to Russia to set up a programme to aid Chechen refugees. Pakistan, reflecting the rising anger in the Muslim world at the attack on co-religionists in Chechenia, said that the carnage and destruction could lead to a worsening of the conflict and its spread throughout the Caucasus.

The fear that the conflict might involve other Muslim parts of the former Soviet Union is one of the main concerns of Western leaders. They do not want to see a dismantling of the Russian Federation or any exacerbation of the poor relations between the Muslim world and the West, strained as they are by conflicts in Bosnia and Algeria.

Chechen leaders have called on fellow Muslims along Russia's southern border to come to their aid and thousands of volunteers are flooding in from the turbulent North Caucasus. Muslim leaders in neighbouring Ingushetia and Dagestan have denounced the Russian onslaught and there are fears in Moscow that the appeal to Muslim solidarity will boost the independence movements in Tatarstan and Bashkiria, two autonomous republics to the east of Moscow that have been agitating for an end to rule by Moscow.

The fighting in Chechenia might also embolden the Islamic fundamentalist opponents of the Government in Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic that relies on Russian troops to guard its border with Afghanistan. Dozens of Russian soldiers have been killed repelling attacks by Islamist Tajik exiles who have taken refuge in Afghanistan.

Many Russians are also worried that if the Chechen conflict becomes a more generalised struggle between the Russians and its Muslim neighbours, there will be an increasing danger of ethnic conflict in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Azerbaijan and elsewhere between Russians and Muslims.



Chechen civilians pass a destroyed Russian armoured personnel carrier as they flee central Grozny during yesterday's fighting

War threatens to derail economic reform

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE cost of waging a bloody and destructive war in Chechenia could ruin the prospects for essential economic reforms due to be introduced in Russia this year.

Three weeks into the siege of Grozny, it has become clear that tens of billions of extra roubles will have to be found to pay for the military operation and the enormous amount of work necessary to rebuild the shattered Chechen capital.

Before the military offensive was launched against the breakaway republic in the Caucasus, the Russian Government under Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, had announced that 1995 would be the year that Russia introduced serious reforms aimed at reducing the budget, bringing down inflation and encouraging the private sector.

However, Yevgeni Yasin, the Economics Minister, agreed last week that the impact of the war in Chechenia could seriously hurt prospects for an economic recovery this year. Exact figures for the operation so far have not been released by the Government, al-



Izvestia's view of the conflict

though sending 40,000 troops, rebuilding a city for 400,000 people and repairing Grozny's oil refinery will not be cheap. Most estimates put the price of the military action at 100 billion roubles

(£18 million) a day and the cost of rebuilding Chechenia's shattered economy at three trillion roubles (£540 million). "There will come a time when it will be impossible to maintain our economic stabilisation programme and at the same time carry out these [military] operations. At some time we will have to give something up," Mr Yasin said. "I have to admit that 1995 will be a very difficult year."

Two central pillars of the Government's economic policy for this year have been undermined by the war. First, the pledge to bring inflation down from its present level of about 15 per cent to 3 per cent seems almost impossible in the present circumstances. Moreover this year's budget, which envisaged reducing spending on the military, will have to be redrawn to account for the increased expenditure.

Even the Government's few supporters in parliament concede that the conflict in Chechenia could seriously damage Russia's slow moves towards economic reform, particularly if the military operations are drawn out over weeks and months.

Boris Fyodorov, the former Finance Minister, who has backed the military action to remove General Dzhokhar

Dudayev from power in Chechenia, said that the present budget for this year was "unrealistic and doomed".

An economic downturn, combined with the present political instability in Moscow, could scare off future foreign investment in Russia and undermine a £4-billion standby-by loan that is being negotiated between the Kremlin and the International Monetary Fund.

"There are two ways to come up with money, both of which amount to cutting off the branch on which the entire Russian economy is sitting," Vladimir Buyev, a researcher at the Centre for Economic Reform in Moscow, said.

He added that either the Government would have to print more money, which would lead to a serious devaluation of the rouble and spiralling inflation, or it would be forced to reduce the amount of resources allocated to other areas of the Russian economy.

Either way, President Yeltsin's war in a remote part of the Caucasus is likely this year to affect every Russian citizen financially, a fact that the Kremlin chief cannot afford to overlook as his public support continues to shrink.



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Arabs and Israelis in last-ditch talks to save peace plan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Palestinian leaders will hold a crisis summit next week, that both Arab and Israeli officials predict will be a last-ditch attempt to rescue the peace process.

At stake is the implementation of the vital and delayed second stage of the accord. This relates to the calling of elections and territory.

The mutual distrust increased yesterday when bulldozers began digging the foundations of an extended Jewish settlement on contested land near the occupied town of Bethlehem, and Israeli troops and Palestinian police exchanged fire in the Gaza Strip for the second time in less than 48 hours.

According to senior Israeli officers, the Palestinian police opened fire on an Israeli patrol close to the Erez crossing point only hours after Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation's

police force to avenge the killing of three of their uniformed colleagues by Israeli troops on Monday night.

In a second incident about half a mile away, the Israeli army opened fire on a car carrying armed Palestinians inside the newly autonomous area. A Palestinian police official said that two policemen and two Arab civilians were wounded in the shooting incidents which forced a renewed closure of the exposed border post at Erez.

As the shooting erupted between the two forces, which are supposed to co-operate to protect 120,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, new Palestinian street demonstrations against alleged Israeli seizure of Palestinian land broke out in the occupied town of el-Bireh, close to Ramallah. The protests came as the vexed issue of settlements, theoretically deferred until next year, emerged as the main new obstacle to further progress in the virtually-deadlocked Middle East peace negotiations.

The Arab demonstrators in el-Bireh angrily claimed that the Israeli authorities had confiscated last week 1,250 acres of their territory to build a new road to the Jewish settlements of Adam and Ofra.

Radical Palestinians opposed to the peace process have been quick to seize on the emotive land issue as a new weapon to whip up public feeling against the negotiations. Yesterday both the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced that next Friday, had been declared a day of "national confrontation against Israeli land settlement and land confiscation" throughout the West Bank.

That call to action, seen as certain to provoke violent confrontation with the settlers,



Bulldozers start work on extending the settlement at Efrat, near Bethlehem, further escalating bitter distrust in the area

was followed by another announcement by a group calling itself "The Committee for the Defence of Land in Ramallah" that a mass demonstration will take place the next day to protest against the alleged seizure of land by the Israelis from several villages in the Bethlehem and

Ramallah areas. So far, the Palestinian Authority has been unable to defuse the escalation of popular Arab feeling on the issue.

Azmi Shuaibi, a Minister in Yasser Arafat's 24-member Palestinian Authority, announced that it was now considering establishing

grassroots' land defence committees throughout the West Bank to "put an end to sufficing with mere negotiations" on the explosive issue.

Nabil Shaath, in announcing next week's crucial summit between Mr Arafat, the PLO leader, and his two fellow Nobel Peace laureates,

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, gave an outspoken warning that the peace process, begun in Washington 15 months ago, is now close to stalling completely. He said he would refuse to take part if Israel did not free more prisoners soon.

Britain reviews Bahrain's defence

By MICHAEL BINTON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

NICHOLAS Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, yesterday held talks with the Emir of Bahrain to discuss military co-operation and regional stability in the Gulf.

Mr Soames, who arrived on Tuesday for an annual meeting of the Anglo-Bahrain defence committee, also reviewed with Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa the attempt by the Gulf states to pool their defence efforts in the wake of the recent renewed threat by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to Kuwait.

Mr Soames's visit comes only weeks after widespread arrests in Bahrain of opposition activists demonstrating for greater democracy. Most have been released after being charged with public order offences.

The committee looks at ways in which the two countries can strengthen their military ties, with Bahraini training programmes in Britain and British military exercises in Bahrain.

Settlers vow to stay on Golan

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

SETTLERS on the Golan Heights have conducted an emotional campaign against what they regard as betrayal by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Their message is everywhere, on car stickers in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and settlements across the area: "Rabin does not have a mandate for concessions on the Golan"; "Peace with the Golan"; "The people are with the Golan".

"We are not moving from the Golan," said Maria Van Meter, a member of the Golan Residents' Committee, who came with her husband from California to Israel 11 years ago.

Mrs Van Meter is typical of the trenchant opponents of a "land-for-peace" deal with Syria that grows less improbable by the day. The Heights, she argues, are vital to Israel's defence and water needs.

Yet the real attachment is visceral. Uri Eitam, mother of eight children and a member of an Orthodox community, argues that the Golan "is a symbol of the deep spiritual crisis which is passing through Israel".

"We are fighting for more than just our homes, our orchards, and our children," she said. "We are fighting for the very spirit of Zionism and Judaism. The people of Israel know this, and we on the Golan trust and have faith in them."

She is right: no single issue has attracted as much unambiguous support across the Jewish state as the Golan. "Ours is a clean and pure problem," Mrs Eitam argues. "We are not like the West Bank."

That is a view shared by all on the Golan, and by many in Israel. Mik Jago, a cartoonist from London who settled on his kibbutz in 1967, agrees. He insists that most Golan settlers are secular. In a dig at West Bank settlements, he said that "living here always meant working the land, not usurping someone else's rights".

Politically, too, the Golan settlers are very different from their more Messianic counterparts in, say, Efrat, scene of the latest confrontation between settlers and Palestinians.

Most Golan settlers voted for the Labour Party in the last elections, and those who did not voted for the left-wing Meretz Party.

Mr Rabin's efforts to conclude a peace treaty with Syria is to them as baffling as it is outrageous.

Briton says drug planted

Manila: Nigel Gatward, a Briton facing a possible death sentence if convicted of heroin smuggling, filed a complaint accusing Philippines customs police of planting the drug on him.

Mr Gatward, a cellular phone salesman from Clapham, south London, said in a four-page complaint that ten customs police had no valid reason to detain him when he was arrested at Manila airport as a suspected drug courier last September. "Their so-called black bag (containing the heroin) was planted against me," Mr Gatward said in his affidavit released to reporters.

"They deprived me of my freedom and pictured me as a member of an international drug syndicate," he maintained. (Reuters)

Scalfaro ill

Rome: Illness forced President Scalfaro to suspend talks on Italy's political stalemate as speculation grew that he may appoint Francesco Cossiga, former head of state, as prime minister. (Reuters)

Pirating ban

Peking: The Chinese Government ordered a national boycott of pirated goods, intensifying a campaign aimed at averting a trade war with America over theft of copyright. (Reuters)

Naval order

Taipei: China has ordered three Kilo-class attack submarines from Russia to rejuvenate its naval fleet, it was reported here. The \$500-million deal is to be conducted in barter trade. (AFP)

Tragic link

Seoul: South Korea will turn a section of a collapsed commuter bridge here into a memorial warning against shoddy construction, engraved with the names of the 32 victims killed last year. (AFP)

Hijack halted

Khartoum: Sudanese special forces arrested a soldier who said he had hijacked an aircraft carrying 36 people because it was the only way he could get his wife to Cairo. (Reuters)

Dolphins freed

Sydney: A team of marine experts and volunteers freed 15 starving dolphins that had been trapped for more than two weeks in a lagoon on the South Pacific island state of Vanuatu. (Reuters)



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UN presses ahead with plan to send 1.5m Hutus home

FROM TOM WALKER IN KIGALI

THE United Nations is finalising plans made jointly with Zaire and Tanzania which it hopes will lead to the return of one and a half million Hutus to Rwanda over the next five months.

The Governments in both Kinshasa and Dar es Salaam have lost patience with the sprawling refugee camps on their borders, while the fledgling Rwandan Government knows it can only gain international credibility, and assistance, with the displaced Hutus back on home soil.

Shaharyar Khan, the UN's special envoy to Rwanda, is touring the refugee camps around Ngara in northwest Tanzania. Over the new year he was in Zaire to address the more complex issue of the camps around Goma, where the menace of Hutu extremists, or *interahamwe*, is as strong as ever.

The UN and the Zairean authorities have come to a tentative agreement that the Goma camps, where there are 750,000 refugees, should be policed by a force of 2,500 Zairean troops, backed up by 125 UN specialists. Zaire wants the camps cleared by May, when elections are due.

Randolf Kent, spokesman for the UN's emergency office in Rwanda, admitted "there are a lot of uncertainties"

about the plan, but said the Zairean Government was "very anxious" to get the refugees away from the Lake Kivu area.

"No one even knows if we have the logistical capability to carry out this operation," he said. Up to 7,500 refugees per day would have to be transported back to Rwanda.

Refugees scared of reprisals at home by the Rwandan Patriotic Front could go to a "security corridor" in Rwanda, which would be patrolled by UN troops.

The UN has been encouraged by the relative success of the so-called "Operation Retour" within Rwanda, which has seen displaced Hutus returning to their home communities. Initially the operation, focused on the former French-occupied zone in the southwest, was deemed a failure. But early this week more than 1,000 refugees per day were boarding UN trucks.

"It's likely that these camps will not be open in three weeks to a month," a UN spokesman said.

Bringing in the potentially armed and dangerous refugees from outside the country will be a much trickier operation, however, and the Kigali Government is already bracing itself. This week it closed its borders and recalled all

Rwandan franc bank notes, replacing them with bills of a new design. The move is aimed at preventing the Hutu extremist "government in exile" returning with the 50 billion Rwandan francs with which it fled in July.

Rwanda will stand or fall by the return plan. There are up to 30,000 soldiers of the former government army in Zaire, and many thousands of the refugees participated in the April genocide. The international tribunal on the genocide will start work this month in Kigali and Rwanda's own judicial system should crack back into life soon, helped by foreign judges and lawyers.

In "the land of a thousand hills" most communes are half empty, their former inhabitants either dead or outside the country. At Nyamata, 40 miles southeast of Kigali, the church has still not been properly cleaned since the massacre and the smell of death lingers. "I think 60 per cent of the people here helped commit the massacres," says the Yacinte Mukantabana, the Mayor.

"We can't judge them all but we will have to make examples. Those people in Goma who say it never happened know in themselves what went on — they have shame. I just hope it is enough for it never to happen again."



A Cambodian soldier stands guard outside the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh after a Khmer Rouge threat



King Sihanouk waves to crowds welcoming him home

Khmer Rouge threat sparks security fears

THE Australian Embassy in Cambodia is being guarded round-the-clock amid reports that the Khmer Rouge is offering an \$8,000 (£5,200) reward for captured Australians.

Officials in Canberra confirmed yesterday that they were treating the reports from Khmer Rouge defectors as reliable. The threats follow the murder of a number of Western hostages, including two Australians.

Radio broadcasts by the Communist Khmer Rouge

last year said they would behead captured Australians after Canberra's decision to increase non-lethal military aid to Cambodia in an effort to counter the rebels.

The security alert came as 20,000 people turned out in Phnom Penh to welcome King Sihanouk home after cancer treatment in China. He told them: "I miss you all very much. I'm recovered now, thank you." His doctors said he was in "excellent" health. (AFP, Reuters)

Island Speaker predicts coup

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MADAGASCAR may suffer a coup some time in the next four days, the Speaker of parliament and mastermind of the island's move to multi-party elections in 1991, said in a speech to his followers.

The bizarre forecast, made by Richard Andriamanjato, came as other speakers of the Living Forces coalition demanded the resignation of the Government of Francisque Ravony, the Prime Minister. Mr Andriamanjato said soldiers and civilians were plotting to overthrow the Government between yesterday and next Sunday, but gave no details or explanation why he was able to predict the coup.

Mr Andriamanjato, a supporter of President Zafy, is head of the largest group in parliament. His remarks come as the Prime Minister, elected in August 1993, has been criticised by some deputies for negotiating with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund on Madagascar's economic reforms.

The island has embarked on free-market reform after the election defeat of President Ratsiraka, who ruled Madagascar for 17 years under a state-controlled socialist system. The Living Forces coalition, which ended his rule, insisted at a rally on Tuesday that it did not oppose economic reform, though it did not want international interference in the island's affairs. Mr Andriamanjato, a Marxist-Protestant clergyman, has been accused of holding up the talks with the two world monetary agencies.

Madagascar, a former French colony, is one of the world's poorest countries, and has periodically suffered from political unrest. Rumours of an attempted coup appear to be linked to the recent murders of the son and daughter-in-law of Jean Rakotonirainy, a retired army general. Mr Andriamanjato said these were intended to show that the Government could not guarantee security.

Police 'told to murder Malawi ministers'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BLANTYRE

MALAWIAN police, acting on instructions from the authorities, battered to death four cabinet ministers who were said to have died in a car crash in 1983, an inquest report disclosed yesterday.

There is no doubt that the four were murdered by police on instructions from authorities," Harry Mtegha, chairman of the commission of

inquiry, said in an apparent reference to the regime of former President Banda, although he mentioned no names. The commission was set up six months ago to investigate the deaths of Dick Mwaanga, Twaibu Sangala, Aaron Gadama and David Chiwanga.

Contrary to speculation that the ministers had been shot,

Mr Mtegha said no guns were used, but that a police mobile force had used clubs, hammers and sharp objects on their victims to simulate road accident injuries.

The four were murdered after they disappeared on their way from a parliamentary session at Zomba. It is widely believed that the ministers were killed after they

refused to carry out President Banda's orders.

President Mwaanga said that his Government would examine the report carefully and take appropriate action. He added that he was satisfied that the inquiry had established that the "four were killed in a cold-blooded manner on instructions from authorities".

Judge defends gay families

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A CALL by an Australian judge for homosexual couples and their children to be recognised legally as families has provoked a bitter response from conservative politicians.

Judge Alastair Nicholson, Chief Justice of the Family Court, has surprised the legal and social establishment with his views. He said that the reality of modern life indicated

that it was time homosexual relationships were covered by the same legislation as that which covers heterosexual relationships.

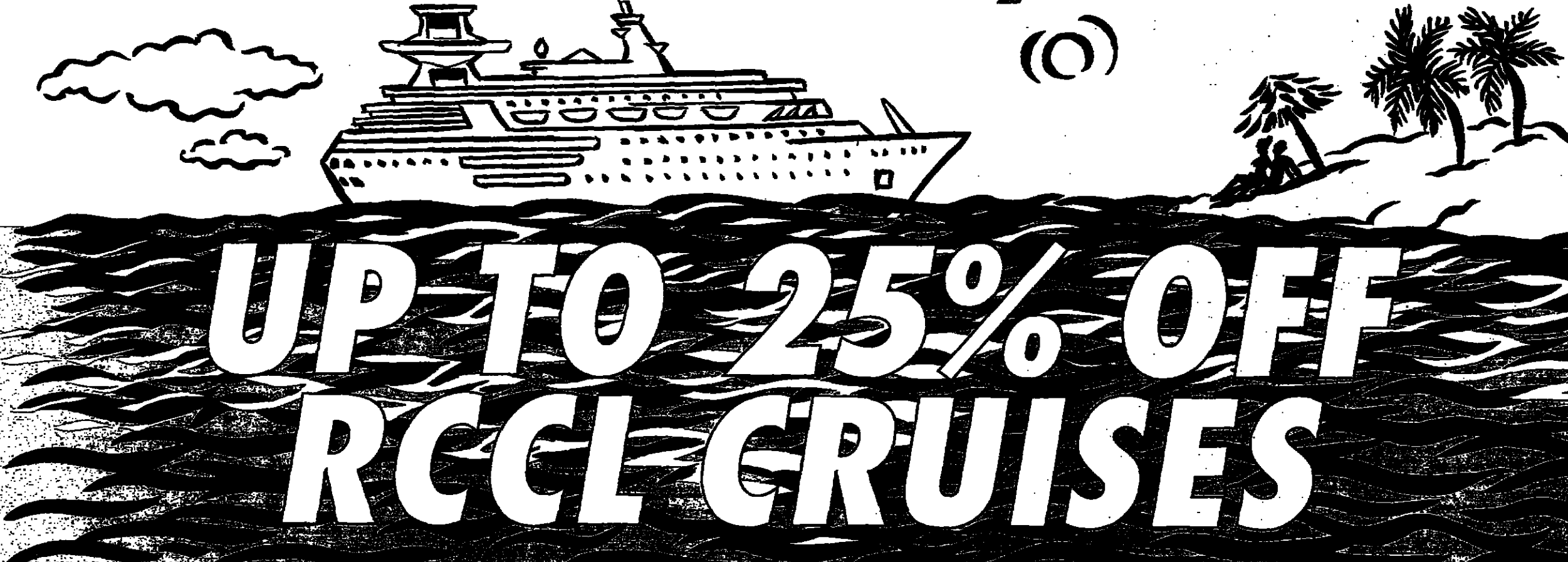
Judge Nicholson said that enormous changes had taken place over the past three decades. He added that some couples in homosexual relationships had the care of children. When such relationships broke up, "I do not see why they should not have the same sort of legal protection as other people".

Tim Fischer, leader of the conservative National Party, said he would never consider same-sex couples as constituting a family. "If you take that agenda to the extreme, we will have a non-reproductive society by default," he said.

Mr Fischer, a former French colony, is one of the world's poorest countries, and has periodically suffered from political unrest. Rumours of an attempted coup appear to be linked to the recent murders of the son and daughter-in-law of Jean Rakotonirainy, a retired army general. Mr Andriamanjato said these were intended to show that the Government could not guarantee security.

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Gingrich's mother says he thinks Hillary is 'a bitch'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SHORTLY before he was sworn in as the new Republican Speaker yesterday, Newt Gingrich denounced CBS television for broadcasting an interview with his mother in which she said he thinks Hillary Clinton is a "bitch".

But he did not contradict his mother and Democrats in Congress demanded that he apologise to the First Lady.

Mr Gingrich complained that his mother had been taken advantage of by an experienced reporter. Certainly, the circumstances under which the comment was obtained raised the question of whether she was tricked. Kathleen Gingrich, 68, was visited at her home in Pennsylvania by Connie Chung, a leading CBS correspondent, who asked about Mr Gingrich's view of President Clinton.

Mrs Gingrich said: "Nothing, and I can't tell you what he said about Hillary." Ms Chung: "Why don't you just whisper it to me — just between you and me."

Mrs Gingrich said: "She's a bitch." About the only thing

he ever said about her. I think they had some meeting and she takes over — but with Newt there she can't."

Ginny Terzano, a White House spokeswoman, said: "We find that offensive. We absolutely expect more from the new Republican Congress and the Speaker."

Furious, Mr Gingrich said it was "disreputable" for a highly-paid and well known CBS reporter to say "whisper it to me" to a simple woman who loves her son and then to put the comment on the air. "I think for most normal, everyday Americans the term 'whisper something to me' means it will be kept confidential," he said. It was a terrible thing, he added, for the network to embarrass his mother on a day when she was very proud of her son and wanted to feel good about herself.

Mr Gingrich may have been right to be angry, but he has not concealed his disdain for the Clintons. In a Washington Post interview he called them "counter-culture McGoverniks" — a disparaging reference to their cam-

paign work for George McGovern, the liberal Democrat whose presidential bid was buried in Richard Nixon's landslide of 1972.

Mr Gingrich's mother conceived him at the age of 16 in the four days before her marriage collapsed and she left his father, Newton McPherson, a 19-year-old mechanic. He died of cancer 12 years ago. When her son was three, she married Robert Gingrich, an infantry officer. As an "army brat" constantly on the move, Mr Gingrich attended five schools in three states and lived in two countries in eight years.

A defining lesson for him was a tour of Verdun, the French battlefield where one million men died in the First World War. He says that the visit awakened his political feelings and taught him that people must be strong and dedicated to stop evil.

Mr Gingrich's mother and stepfather were in the gallery of Congress yesterday for his opening address as Speaker. With them were his second wife, Marianne, and daughters from his first marriage.



Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, in church with his wife and mother yesterday

Dole acts to lift Bosnia arms embargo

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITHIN hours of becoming Republican leader of the US Senate yesterday Robert Dole introduced legislation to lift the UN arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims next spring.

Such a move would cause a huge rift within Nato and the United Nations, lead to the withdrawal of British, French and other international peacekeeping troops from Bosnia, and inflame the conflict.

But aides said Mr Dole had acted on the opening day of the new Congress because he believed passionately that the Muslims had the right to defend themselves against Serb attempts at "genocide", and that his legislation might increase the pressure on the

Bosnian Serbs to agree a peaceful resolution of the war.

Mr Dole's legislation has bipartisan support and will stand a good chance of approval by both the House and Senate when he decides to bring it to a vote. Last autumn the Administration managed to avert congressional demands for America unilaterally to end the embargo only by promising to press the UN to lift the embargo multilaterally, but its subsequent efforts in New York failed.

President Clinton has been persuaded that for the US unilaterally to breach the embargo would be extremely damaging, and he would almost certainly veto Mr Dole's

legislation as it stood. However, Mr Dole could make Mr Clinton's decision much harder by attaching his legislation to a popular and far broader Bill which the President would then have to veto in its entirety.

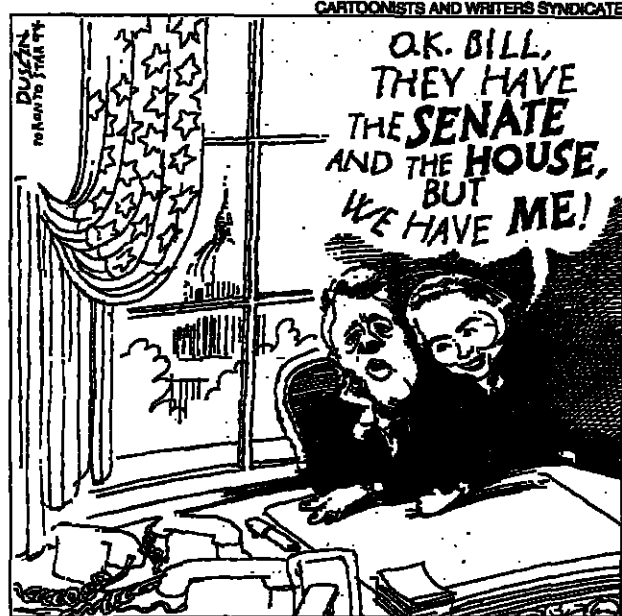
The British Government is very concerned about the danger of the US lifting the embargo unilaterally, and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to visit Washington next month to argue forcefully against it doing so. Officials believe that even the possibility of US arms beginning to flow to the Bosnian Muslims next May could undermine current diplomatic efforts to end the war

peacefully by encouraging them to fight on.

Mr Dole was also planning to introduce related legislation last night that would place very severe restrictions on the President allowing US troops to serve under UN or non-American command.

It would also reportedly slash American funding for future UN peacekeeping operations.

□ Sarajevo: Bosnian government troops began a belated withdrawal from a demilitarized mountain zone overlooking Sarajevo yesterday in keeping with a four-month truce accord signed with their Serb foes on Saturday. (Reuters)



Woeful office: How the Toronto Star sees the troubles facing President Clinton and the Democrats

Wolves head for Yellowstone

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A JUDGE in Wyoming has cleared the way for grey wolves to return to the wilds of Yellowstone National Park.

The US Government wants to repopulate the country's largest national park with the roaming packs of wolves that were wiped out by a federal extermination programme ordered in the 1930s to protect cattle in the area.

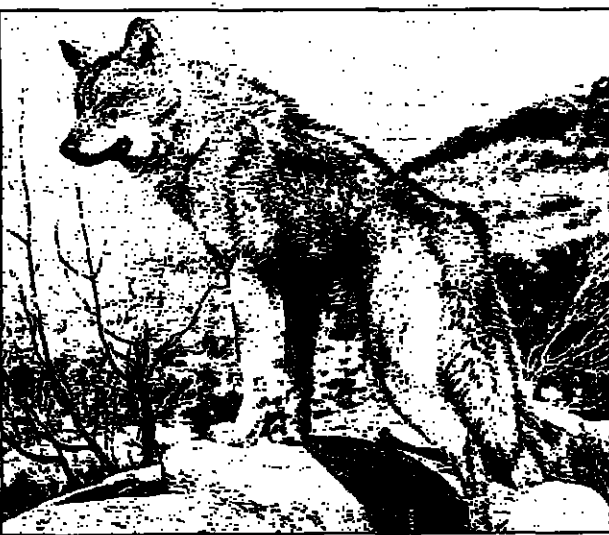
Farmers and hunters, who raised the spectre of marauding wolves decimating livestock and threatening hunters, went to court to block the reintroduction of the beasts.

Biologists had estimated that the wolves would kill up to 20 cattle and 110 sheep a year. However, Judge William Downes rejected the appeals of the American Farm Bureau and the Mountain States Legal Foundation, saying that they "offered only fear and speculation" based on outdated information about the damage done by wolves.

"Reliance upon anecdotal evidence from the turn of the century is insufficient when confronted with the persuasive scientific testimony that the present circumstances sur-

rounding the Yellowstone and central Idaho ecosystems are markedly different from those in earlier times," he wrote. He said that the experience of Minnesota, where wolves live near dairy farms, showed that the animals preferred wild game and shied away from humans.

The first 15 wolves could arrive at Yellowstone from Canada in the next two weeks as part of a \$12 million (£7.7 million) government programme under the Endangered Species Act, designed to protect threatened animals.



The grey wolf is returning to one of its old hunting grounds

Clinton told secrets of success

BY IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT Clinton, still searching for answers to his party's election defeat, has turned for advice to two of America's better-known motivational gurus.

He spent much of last Friday at Camp David with Stephen Covey, best-selling author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, and Anthony Robbins, an advocate of feel-good skills that have made him a multimillionaire. Mr Robbins had a lengthy meeting with the Princess of Wales shortly before she announced her withdrawal from public life, and saw her again last October.

Mr Clinton has been in almost non-stop consultation since his fellow Democrats lost control of Congress last November. In turning to personal-growth experts, he was following a path taken by millions of Americans when feeling down in the dumps.

The Camp David meeting was private, with no White House staff present. Of the two visitors, Dr Covey is the more conventional. One of his fans is Newt Gingrich, the new Republican Speaker.

Dr Covey's seven recommended habits are: be proactive in deciding what to do and getting on with it, begin with the end in mind, put first things first, think win-win, seek first to understand, then to be understood, find ways to co-operate with others and "sharpen the saw" — meaning constantly exercise four elements of the self, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. It is arguable that if Mr Clinton had applied these last year he would have succeeded in persuading Congress to pass his healthcare reform.

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Abdominal emergencies in the elderly □ Mysteries of the deadly meningitis □ Scandal of the undernourished patients in NHS hospitals



LARRY Grayson was found on New Year's Day collapsed in his Nunaton bungalow, suffering from a perforated appendix.

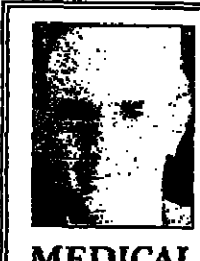
Although less common than it was, appendicitis remains the most frequent cause of an acute abdominal emergency, and is second only to repair of hernias as a reason for abdominal surgery. It affects all age groups, and both sexes, but despite its frequency diagnosis is often missed until after the appendix has perforated and peritonitis has occurred: conversely in 15-20 per cent of the cases who have surgery the true diagnosis is not confirmed, and another cause is found for the pain.

The first recorded abdominal appendectomy was performed in Birmingham in 1880 by Lawson Tait, six years before the pathology of appendicitis was accurately described by Reginald Fitz in America. Its diagnosis became easier once another American, Charles McBurney, described its signs and symptoms in 1889; he

How to read the appendix

emphasised that if a line were drawn from the umbilicus to the bony prominence of the waist, the point of maximal tenderness in the case of appendicitis was 1½ to 2in from the prominence. This is such a useful diagnostic clue that the area is still known as McBurney's point.

In a typical case of appendicitis a patient first complains of pain around the umbilicus; although as time progresses the pain shifts to the lower right-hand side of the abdomen, the muscles overlying the appendix become tense, and tenderness over McBurney's point can be elicited.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

Another very useful sign, Rovsing's sign, in which pressure on the lower left abdomen causes pain on the right side, can also be demonstrated. Vomiting, or even severe nausea, usually follows rather than precedes the pain in appendicitis.

In less than half of all cases of appendicitis are the signs and symptoms typical of the textbook description; the variation in the clinical picture that is presented can be immense. This is particularly true when appendicitis affects people of Mr Grayson's age (he is in his seventies), whose troubles,

stripped of any euphemism, are technically described as "acute appendicitis in the elderly". Appendicitis is notoriously so much more difficult to diagnose in this age group than in a younger person, that no textbook of surgery is complete without a paragraph devoted to it.

The pain in an older person is not so intense, the tenderness usually felt over McBurney's point is less well localised, there is much less muscle tension over the inflamed organ and the temperature, which in most cases is between 100-101°F (37.7-38.3°C), is less likely to rise.

The disadvantages of late diagnosis are even more serious in older than in younger patients, for predominantly from meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain), others from meningococcal sepsis, and why the great majority of those who come into contact with the meningococci become, at worst, asymptomatic carriers. During an epidemic as many as one person in 100 in the involved community may become carriers; hence the need to treat all contacts with prophylactic antibiotics.

Meningococcal sepsis is the most dreaded manifestation of the disease. Death frequently occurs within a matter of hours. In meningococcal sepsis the blood pressure falls disastrously, cardiac arrhythmias develop, patients become comatose, the circulation collapses and, as it does so, essential organs are so starved of oxygen and blood that they are no longer able to function efficiently. The problem in the treatment of sepsis is that although the destruction of the organism with antibiotics is readily achieved, the endotoxins (poisons) released by the meningococci continue to wreak havoc long afterwards.

Dread disease



EMMA Harris, like her school friend Alexandra Yates, died from a meningococcal infection. In Emma's case the manifestation of the infection was different, as she developed an acute septicaemia, a meningococcal sepsis, in which the organism, *Meningococcus* serogroup C, flourishes in the bloodstream. Patients can suffer from both meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal sepsis simultaneously, but it is still a mystery why some patients suffer only, or predominantly, from meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain), others from meningococcal sepsis, and why the great majority of those who come into contact with the meningococci become, at worst, asymptomatic carriers.

During an epidemic as many as one person in 100 in the involved community may become carriers; hence the need to treat all contacts with prophylactic antibiotics. Meningococcal sepsis is the most

dreaded manifestation of the disease. Death frequently occurs within a matter of hours. In meningococcal sepsis the blood pressure falls disastrously, cardiac arrhythmias develop, patients become comatose, the circulation collapses and, as it does so, essential organs are so starved of oxygen and blood that they are no longer able to function efficiently. The problem in the treatment of sepsis is that although the destruction of the organism with antibiotics is readily achieved, the endotoxins (poisons) released by the meningococci continue to wreak havoc long afterwards.

Feeding time



WHILE neither as extreme nor as obvious in Britain as in Africa, malnutrition nevertheless remains a problem here. One of the largest groups of people who are undernourished, or malnourished, are those who are seeing a doctor, either in their local surgery, in

outpatients, or as inpatients in hospital.

A report by the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition suggests that one in ten patients admitted to hospital is severely undernourished. In one hospital 40 per cent of 500 consecutive admissions to all its departments were judged to be undernourished or malnourished. Unfortunately many of those who are malnourished on admission remain malnourished while there, and, once discharged, there is little liaison with community services.

In the days of the all-powerful ward sister a close eye was kept on a patient's feeding. The frail, and the old, were encouraged to finish their food. In many wards now food is delivered, spurned by the patients — either because it is not what they wanted or because they could not manage it — and collected later without comment.

In only one third of hospitals is there a formal system for the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of malnutrition, even though its correction makes life better, and longer, for the patient and, by hastening their cure so they leave hospital earlier, saves money.

The older you are, the better a kidney transplant may function, reports Dr James Le Fanu

Success and the over-60s

On September 26 last year Harry Green was given a new kidney at St Helier's Hospital in Carshalton, Surrey. Everything went swimmingly. Two days later he was walking around the ward, and within three weeks he was in his back garden sowing logs.

Mr Green's experience would be unremarkable, were it not for his age. At 76 he is one of a growing band of senior citizens to benefit from a transplant which only a few years ago would have been derided on the grounds that he was "too old".

No one was more surprised than Mr Green himself. Back in 1991 he visited his doctor because of excessive tiredness. "I kept nodding off in the afternoon, which was unlike me," he says. After a blood test which showed his kidneys were failing he was referred to St Helier's, and over the next few months became increasingly unwell, until he ended up on dialysis.

Mr Green was sure that age excluded him from the possibility of a transplant until told by Mr René Chang, the consultant surgeon at the hospital, that anybody who was "fit enough" was eligible.

Almost immediately after being accepted on to "the list", he was woken by his wife early one morning saying that his presence was required at the hospital without delay as there was a kidney waiting for him with his name on it.

Four months on, he says: "It is incredible how well I feel. We spent Christmas with our daughter and two grandchildren and drank toasts to the Kidney Unit at St Helier's and its exceptional staff."

Only five years ago there was an accepted, if rarely articulated, age barrier of around 60 for kidney transplants. Its steady erosion since

then has been due to improvements in technique and the wider availability of better immunosuppressive drugs, but above all to one paradoxical observation — the older the patient, the greater the chance the transplanted kidney will function normally.

In February last year, Mr Raymond Test of Ohio State University reported in *The Lancet* the results of just over 1,200 consecutive kidney transplants performed over ten years. He found that in those aged under 60 almost a third of transplants were rejected, compared to only one-tenth in those over 60. That is, the older the patient, the greater the success rate. This is presumably because with increasing age the immune system becomes more tolerant to foreign tissue.

There is a catch though. The older recipients do not necessarily live longer as they are

more likely to die from some other age-related disease, such as a stroke or heart attack.

This Mr Chang describes as a major problem. "Say you have an old chap with kidney failure whom you could keep going with a kidney transplant for another ten years or so. If he drops dead soon after his operation, you have done nobody a favour — and you have lost a valuable kidney."

His solution is to screen out those who might be at risk from heart attack. All potential transplant recipients in his unit must first have a "stress electrocardiogram", and if this suggests a narrowing of the arteries to the heart, the transplant will be postponed until a bypass has been done. Since instituting this policy not one of his older patients has died unexpectedly.

There are undoubtedly serious implications in all this. As it is, a further 2,000 transplants a year need to be done to take account of the present waiting list. In the past an unwritten etiquette inhibited older patients from being too pushy about seeking a transplant. There were always those younger than themselves to consider, whose call on spare hearts and kidneys might be thought greater.

Success stories such as Mr Green's, however, cannot but change this attitude. So where will the extra kidneys come from? One answer has been to raise the age limit for donors. Kidney function declines very little over time and is remarkably similar in a 70-year-old to a 30-year-old. Transplant surgeons are now prepared to consider taking kidneys from those well into their seventh decade, though they try to give these to older patients.

Another novel suggestion is that transplanted kidneys in older patients be reused if the recipient dies unexpectedly. This has been reported from the University Hospital in Zurich, where a 47-year-old man had a massive stroke five days after his transplant. The surgeon, Mr Miralem Pasic, whipped it out and retransplanted it into someone else who, a year later, is "fully active and without symptoms".

The real answer, however, must lie in increasing the overall supply of kidneys. On Monday, Tom Sackville, the health minister, launched a publicity campaign to increase the numbers of potential organ donors on the national computer register. The Government's target, he said, was "ambitious". But will it suffice? Increasingly, it seems there is no alternative other than a major shift in policy, whereby instead of "opting in" to become a potential donor, those who do not wish their kidneys to be used after their death will have to "opt out".

Comparisons with other European countries such as Austria show that the "opt out" system doubles the number of kidneys and other organs available for transplantation — which should be just enough to go round.



A donated kidney arrives at the operating theatre. The supply needs to be increased

A personal attack on cancer

Cecil Hutchings, a 70-year-old from Bedfordshire, is the first person in Britain to take part in clinical trials of gene therapy as a new approach to tackling some forms of cancer.

Scientists in Cambridge and Southampton have found a method of producing a "personal vaccine" that uses DNA cloned from the patient's own tumour to combat the disease. For reasons doctors do not fully understand, cancer is not perceived as an enemy by the body's immune system in the same way as, for example, the flu virus. The hope is that the new genetic material is taken up locally by the muscle cells and tricks the body's immune system into attacking the malignant tumour.

The advance has been made

A revolutionary gene therapy is being tested on its first volunteer

possible by the development of DNA sequencing techniques that will eventually allow scientists to "read" and decode every one of the estimated 100,000 genes in the human body. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique, which uses an enzyme involved in the natural copying of DNA to make millions of replicas of the molecule in the laboratory, has also proved crucial. "It is rather like being able to put an encyclopedia into a photocopier and make millions of copies of one word," says Dr Robert Hawkins, one of a team of researchers from centres in-

cluding Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and the Tenovus Laboratories in Southampton who have developed the personal vaccine.

Dr David Secher, director of drug development at the Cancer Research Campaign, said the fact that the personal vaccine trial was now under way was an example of how laboratory techniques could be put into clinical practice. "The exciting thing is it shows how quickly techniques in basic science can be translated to a stage where they are ready to test in patients."

The treatment for Mr Hutchings, who suffers from cancer of the lymph nodes, is being tried on him alone. In two months, when his treatment is completed, another patient will be recruited. By the end of 1995 ten volunteers will have had the experimental treatment at Addenbrooke's and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Dorset.

At present, the trial is restricted to patients with the comparatively rare B-cell lymphoma, a form of lymph node cancer which affects about 2,500 people every year in England and Wales. The antigen — the unique protein found only in one individual patient's tumour — can be clearly identified on the surface of the B-cell lymphoma, one of the few tumours where this is possible.

Like all patients who take part in clinical trials of experimental treatments, Mr Hutchings was carefully counselled before giving his consent. He is well aware that this may benefit thousands in future, but may not save his life.

"With any new cure there always has to be a first person to try it out," he said. "I have had this complaint for nearly four years, and have had all sorts of treatment including radiotherapy, chemotherapy and steroids."

Mr Hutchings, who has four sons and ten grandchildren aged between four and 14, has now had three of the six injections in his course of treatment. He says it is painless, reports no side-effects and even thinks he can see improvement in some of the large lymph node tumours that have developed. Like all first stage drug trials, the aim, initially, is not to see if the treatment works, but to test its potential toxicity before extending the trial to more patients.

Dr Hawkins says: "If gene therapy is not properly controlled, introducing foreign genes could lead to problems for future generations." This is why all gene therapy is limited to patients beyond child-bearing age. He believes that some lung cancers and brain tumours might also be appropriate for vaccine therapy, as well as for patients with B-cell lymphoma. This treatment could be available by the end of this century.

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Janet Daley



The discouraging of family responsibility in the name of liberation is leading to disaster

During the 1960s, the extreme Left had a catchphrase: "Scratch a liberal and there's a fascist underneath." How ironically prophetic it proved. What we are living through now is the creation of an ideal culture for breeding neo-fascism, and it has been put in place by liberal orthodoxy. Or perhaps I should say, by liberation orthodoxy, since the philosophy which these policies represent is not liberal in any proper sense of the word. In a book published this week by the Institute of Economic Affairs, *Foreword to the Family*, Patricia Morgan describes how the traditional family has been systematically undermined by government policy. In a devastating coda, she gives warning of the likely social consequences of this programme.

Quite apart from the deprivations of children growing up with only one parent, she considers the more immediate effect on their dispossessed biological fathers. What we are producing, she suggests, are the conditions for creating a new "warrior class" of men cut off from the socialising influence of family and domestic responsibility: "large numbers of unattached males for whom status is defined by predatory sexual behaviour and violent seizure of other people's property". The decline of heavy industry may have made many working-class men unemployed, but it took active intervention by social reformers to put them beyond the social pale.

These rogue males are obvious fodder for a fascist demagogue

Detached from any sense of continuing responsibility for others, these rogue males are becoming outlaws within their own community. I go further than Patricia Morgan in my prophecies of doom: it is probably only a matter of time before some political demagogue sets out to organise this anarchic delinquency. In their alienation and unchecked aggressiveness, these displaced men are ideal fodder for fascist recruitment.

Anyone who thinks this analysis hysterical should look at the figures. The Government has now set up a programme of financial disincentives to marriage and family stability so comprehensive that only the most determined (and affluent) couples can easily disregard its disadvantages.

With all benefits taken into account, a lone mother with two children can work for 20 hours per week at £4 per hour and end up with £163.99 net after rent and tax. A married father of two children working for 40 hours at the same rate would be left with £130.95. So he keeps £33 less for working full-time than the single mother does for working half-time. Add to this the lone mother's preferential treatment

in the housing queue, and ask yourself why any working-class girl should regard a husband as worse than useless. And she will be cheered on in this conclusion by her middle-class feminist sisters, whose ideology has helped to form these fiscal policies.

What began in the 1960s as a deceptively gentle cult of self-fulfilment and personal freedom hardened in the 1970s into vengeful self-seeking. This philosophy embedded itself so deeply in the consciousness of a generation that its basic premise is thought unquestionable even by Conservative politicians: that the personal freedom of the individual — especially if she is female — is the criterion by which all social and governmental policy should be judged. Since all institutions which restrict life choices have to be regarded as anathema, marriage has gradually lost all official status.

The State must now regard every person as a self-contained, atomised unit with strict mathematical equality in terms of tax allowance (which was transferable to a higher earning wife, and thus not even sexually discriminatory), marriage ceasing to be recognised at all by the legal and fiscal systems.

The family allowance which was brought in to replace tax allowances for families with children is also being run down (except for single parents, who receive an extra supplement). Soon it will be "targeted", and given only to the poorest. We will then be the only advanced country in the world to make no distinction in taxation between people who have children and people who do not unless they are single.

So how much freedom have we gained from this ruthless vendetta against the "oppressive" nuclear family? Women, it will be argued, have won the right to have babies whenever they feel so inclined. They are no longer stigmatised for producing illegitimate children — indeed, the concept of illegitimacy has become redundant, since all fathers are pursued for maintenance, even when they have not been remotely considered as lifelong partners. So women need not be economically "enslaved" by marriage. Instead they are economically beholden to the State, which devalues men by recognising only mothers and their children.

Can no one see how sinister it is for the State to be the all-powerful head of every family?

David Pannick says press speculation about the West case will not prejudice a fair trial

Juries have minds of their own

The suicide in prison earlier this week of Frederick West, facing charges of murdering 12 women, has presented unusual difficulties for newspapers and their legal advisers.

In an essay written in 1946 lamenting "The Decline of the English Murder", George Orwell explained what editors and their circulation managers learn at their mothers' knees: the British public enjoys reading newspaper reports about murder, especially domestic murder in which sex is a motive, behind the neighbours' net curtains. But ever since the Editor of the *Daily Mirror* was imprisoned for three months in 1949 for suggesting that John Haigh, "the acid-bath murderer" on trial for one murder was "a vampire" guilty of other murders as well, the press has reluctantly recognised that there are limits to its ability to satisfy the public demand for details about alleged murderers before the end of a trial.

Unless and until convicted, West was protected by the law of contempt of court from newspaper analysis of his background, his mental state, and the precise contents of his back garden. But the dead cannot be tried in the criminal courts (nor can they be libelled), so the law of contempt has no application. The death of a defendant accused of being

a serial killer would, in normal circumstances, remove restrictions on discussion of whether his activities were the result of, for example, lack of parental affection, watching pornographic films or (an unfashionable and much underrated theory) pure and selfish evil.

But Mrs Rosemary West, wife of Frederick, is charged with committing nine murders jointly with her husband. The Crown Prosecution Service is now considering whether to pursue the charges against her. Unless and until the service decides otherwise, the proceedings against her remain "active" for the purposes of the Contempt of Court Act of 1981. It is therefore a criminal offence for anyone to publish material which "creates a substantial risk" that the "course of justice" in the proceedings against Mrs West "will be seriously impeded or prejudiced".

The secretary of the Criminal Bar Association, Steven Kay, QC, and the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire,

Tony Butler, have been reported as expressing concern that some of the newspaper coverage of the death of West might prejudice a fair trial for Mrs West.

These fears are unfounded. In all but exceptional circumstances, the law rightly assumes that juries give their verdicts according to the evidence they see and hear in court, and are not influenced by the contents of what they have previously read in their newspapers, save possibly with regard to the horoscope, the weather forecast and the daily selections of the racing tipster.

During a murder trial in 1969, Mr Justice Lawton rejected a complaint made on behalf of one of the defendants, Ronald Kray, that there could not be a fair trial because of prejudicial publicity. The judge stated that he had "enough confidence in my fellow countrymen to think that they have got newspapers sized up", so that they are "capable in normal circumstances of looking at a matter fairly and without

prejudice even though they have to disregard what they may have read in a newspaper". Mr Justice Lawton explained that "the public's recollection is short, and the drama, if I may use that term, of a trial almost always has the effect of excluding from recollection that which went before".

Similar principles were stated in 1983, by the then Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew. The Irish Attorney-General had declined to extradite Father Patrick Ryan to the United Kingdom to face charges of criminal acts linked to terrorism. The Irish Attorney-General said that public statements by Margaret Thatcher about Father Ryan meant that it would not be possible for a jury to approach the issue of his guilt or innocence without bias.

Sir Patrick Mayhew told the House of Commons that Patrick Ryan was assured of a fair trial because "juries in England are invariably instructed

that they must decide the case only on the evidence that they have heard and seen in that trial". In Sir Patrick's experience, "juries heed those directions scrupulously, with the fairness that one expects in the ordinary men and women of our country".

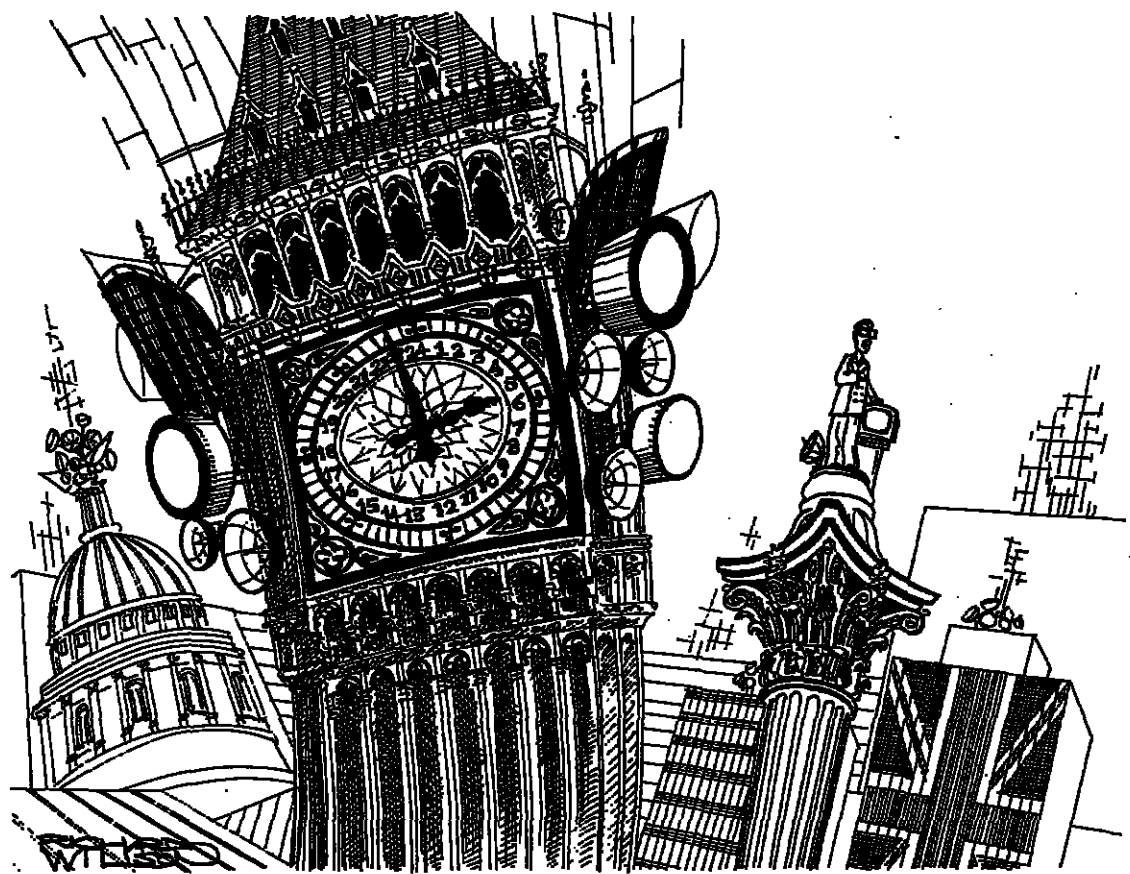
A newspaper article can prejudice a fair trial only if jurors see it, believe it, remember it, and act on it in preference to the evidence they receive in court, despite a judicial direction to the contrary. Any trial of Mrs West would not take place for several months. The jury's verdict would then depend not on its vague recollection of newspaper articles published this week, but on its assessment of the strength (or otherwise) of the case presented against Mrs West in court.

The suicide of West has denied to victims' relatives, and to the public, the cathartic comfort which a criminal trial could provide by way of explaining what happened and why to those who came into contact with West before their disappearance many years before his arrest. It would be ironic were West's final contribution to legal history to be the creation of a principle that requires silence about his activities even after his death.

David Pannick, QC, is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

It's the elite who matter

In future Britain must concentrate on educating the top five per cent, on whose success we shall all depend



If the Conservative Party had lost the 1992 election, as most people expected it to, the political situation in Britain might now be much the same as that in the United States. There would be no Whitewater, but Neil Kinnock's administration, having been forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and having taken the brunt of the recession, would be deeply unpopular, all the more so for having raised taxes.

The Conservative Party would have turned against Maastricht, no doubt under a new leader, and would be developing a Newt Gingrich type of "contract with Britain". A comfortable Conservative victory would be forecast for 1997.

The new Conservative economic policy would probably have been put in the hands of Peter Lilley, who is the best policymaker among right-wing Conservatives. The first Lilley memorandum might well have shown a surprising degree of optimism about Britain's prospects in the next century. In some ways, Britain is better placed to compete in the information age than it was in the mass production age which is closing. The information age will be driven by communications and services, including financial services. Britain has high quality and productivity in these areas. As an exporter of financial services, Britain is fully competitive with the United States and Japan, aside from the scale of their domestic capital formation, and more than competitive with Germany. World finance works on a 24-hour clock. London dominates the European time slot, as New York dominates the American and Tokyo the Asian.

Britain is also very strong in communications, although the American lead is much greater in that area. Britain has the advantage of the English language, which dominates world business and entertainment. British society fits the information age in other ways. For reasons which lie deep in our social history, we have not been so good as some other nations at factory management — the Japanese obtain higher productivity from British factories than we usually do ourselves.

This deficiency does not exist in the small, highly skilled teams on which information transfer of all kinds depends. Until very recently, British education has been literary and elitist — the ideal of the grammar school — and much of that tradition survives. The information age is already turning out to be short of things to say, rather than of ways of transmitting them: it has a deficiency of software rather than of hardware. The next century — like the 19th — will probably be the age of the professions, with an emphasis on rare skills, and Britain is still a professional and relatively elitist

country. What has been considered our cultural backwardness may prove an advantage, as a different cultural time-lag has been to Japan.

How should Britain maximise its national advantages in this new age of knowledge and communications? Some conclusions are obvious. Both international capital and skilled people have to be attracted. Britain must be an efficient relay station in all systems of communication, an ideal location for the world information business. That requires low transaction costs, and preferably no transaction taxes, a thoroughgoing attitude of tax-free internationalism. Our competitors will be Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Bermuda, the Channel Islands, Singapore or Hong Kong: the next century will be the age of tax havens. Britain's national interest is that the rest of the world should do its business in and through our country, but we should also be able to do our own business on the same terms.

There are fascinating implications here for educational policy, and they are highly unfashionable. The 20th-century view has been that the economies of mass production required mass education, perceived as the

universal provision of modest educational skills. The 21st century will require greater emphasis on the higher skills of the ablest students. The factory system provided repetitive jobs at high wages: the information system will require very high skills in non-repetitive work. In international competition, perhaps 5 per cent of the population will produce 80

would have been ideal for the requirements of the new age.

When Charles Babbage, the inventor of the first computer, entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1811, he had already read *Dilston's Fluxions*, Woodhouse's *Principles of Analytical Calculation* and Lagrange's *Theorie des Fonctions*. Such remarkable early learning may now be too much to hope for, but the new education needs to be profound and general, rather than superficial and vocational. Britain has educated for Empire, has educated for factories, and now has to educate for knowledge and communications.

William Rees-Mogg

per cent of the national income, and the employment of the 95 per cent will depend on the success of the few.

Some of the classical educational models seem surprisingly appropriate. At its best, the post-Renaissance teaching of logical thought through exact linguistic training produced just the precise but flexible mental formation which the information age requires. The Cambridge trips of the 19th century, with its faith in mathematics as the language of science,

made. For a government to take the savings part of income and spend it on public consumption is quite wrong. Countries with high savings enjoy better growth, more prosperity, better jobs, higher employment, higher standards of living, more stable prices, more stable currencies, greater balance of trade surpluses and more international investment income. All of these things are put at risk by taxing income before savings rather than after. Taxing income net of savings means that one has to tax expenditure. There has already been a trend for taxation to shift in that direction, but it is has not gone anything like far enough.

Expenditure will steadily become easier to tax in an efficient way as cash payments dwindle and electronic transfers increase. I doubt whether cash money will still be legal tender for any but the smallest payments by 2025. Every bus will have a machine to take one's credit card at the entrance. Once expenditures can be aggregated, such expenditure taxes can be made progressive. It will be possible to tax the first £3,000 of expenditure at zero, the next £7,000 at 10 per cent and so on, just like a modern income tax. If such an expenditure tax were to be introduced, present income and capital taxes could and should be abolished altogether.

All systems of tax and public expenditure can be regarded as bargains between the citizen and the State to suit each age, to meet the needs of business, of society and of protection. Britain still operates what is essentially the mid-20th-century bargain, with high income taxes, with over 40 per cent of the national income taken by the State, with an unfavourable environment for individual saving and responsibility, with very high social expenditure, and with a large public welfare sector. The discovery of the Thatcher and Reagan administrations was that parts of this bargain were already out of date. The Newt Gingrich thesis is that much — though not all — of what remains is also out of date.

Whichever party comes to power in Britain in 1997, the bargain for the next century will be very different. The new bargain will accept new forms of economic change and the real power of the new class of internationally mobile information workers. It will return to a wealthier middle class the responsibility for a larger area of their own welfare. It will certainly have to shift from taxing income to taxing expenditure. It will stop taxing savings altogether. The first party to promise to abolish income tax inside one parliament will be the first to show that it understands the emerging requirements of the 21st century.

Scrubbed out

THE PRISON SERVICE and its Director-General, Derek Lewis, cannot afford to relax in the wake of riots, breakouts and the death of Fred West. They have postponed the annual Prison Service party, which was due tonight.

Organisers of the knees-up spent much of yesterday desperately trying to contact more than 200 guests who had been invited by Lewis and the Prisons Board to drinks and a buffet supper at Glaziers' Hall in London. But by late afternoon many invites still hadn't heard that the entertainment had been cancelled.

The Prison Service says the party would have been inappropriate, given recent events. But it had, by all accounts, laid on a sumptuous spread, kicking off with wine produced by inmates at East Sutton Park in Kent, who are very rarely entitled to drink their tipple. An address by Lewis would have followed, then on to a buffet supper of "Prison Service produce prepared by our own chef".

Many were looking forward to the evening. "However, it would

have been most unfortunate timing," says one. "Let's hope guests have all been told in time, otherwise the Prison Service will be in the unusual position of actually turning away customers." Staff at Glaziers' Hall, which cost the service £800 to rent, were disappointed too: "It's very difficult actually," said a spokeswoman. "Yes, it's awful. Who would have thought all

AND THAT'S THE HOLE MICHAEL HOWARD WRIGGLED THROUGH

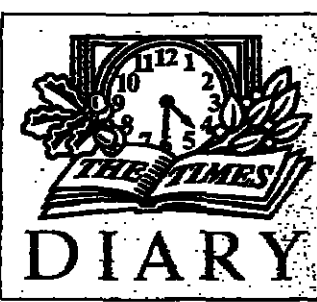


these things could have happened? I feel most sorry for them."

As Maurice Saatchi empties his desk after 25 years at Saatchi & Saatchi, he won't be shovelling mementoes into any old holdall. He was pictured recently clutching a vast briefcase made by Louis Vuitton and costing an estimated £1,450.

Granted

HUGH GRANT is to lend a touch of class to Madame Tussaud's. The waxwork will be unveiled this summer, along with Linford Christie, Terry Venables, Stephen Hawking and a perma-tanned David Copperfield (colour artists will be flown to the United States to ensure the depth of his tan is exactly matched). "Hugh Grant was only booked two weeks before he came in for his first sitting," says a representative. "Normally we would have to book a subject two or three months in advance, but he jumped at the chance." Grant will be asked to donate his own clothing for the dummy, and one can only hope that it will not be his costume from the forthcoming film version of Beryl Bainbridge's novel *An Awfully Big*



Adventure — in which he plays a powdered and bewigged member of a theatrical troupe.

To the dogs

THE Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, took time out on Tuesday to poke around his ancestral roots. He was visiting his family home at Trablogan after attending celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the founding of University College, Cork.

Sadly, the residence is now a holiday complex. His great-grandfather, the first Lord Fermoy, lost the estate in the 1850s to his cousins, the Fitzgeralds of Ballymaloe, in a wager on a greyhound. "The details are hazy," says Mayhew —

hazily. "The only fact that everyone seems to be sure of is that the dog was called Ballymaloe Lad."

Stepping out

THE DUKE of Buccleuch, Britain's biggest individual landowner, is so keen to encourage hikers on his 277,000 acres in Scotland that he has joined the Ramblers' Association. "My family's lands have always been accessible to anybody. In fact it would be nice to see a few more walkers up here," he says.

"A ludicrous amount of sparring has gone on in the past," he adds. "We've allowed access for 150 years, and I don't think there's much to be worried about." Buccleuch has been wheelchair-bound since a riding accident 23 years ago, and says he won't be joining any official jaunts. "I've been to the top of every hill in southern Scotland in my car, but I don't think that would suit the Ramblers."

Hick up

MICHAEL ATHERTON'S decision to declare in Sydney yesterday with Graeme Hick just two runs short of his century was not the first



Graeme Hick: repeatedly robbed, but spurred

time the Worcestershire batsman was robbed of a landmark score at the crease. He was fast approaching the highest score in a county championship match in 1988 when his side declared, leaving him just 20 short of the 425 needed to beat the record set in 1895.

Duncan Fearnley, chairman of Worcestershire and the master batsman who has provided Hick with a new bat for the Ashes tour, believes his man shrugs off such set-

backs. "I'm sure he was not too pleased, but I expect it will spur him on to better things."

● I hope that 1995 improves for Princess Michael of Kent. She spent its first three days at the Winfield Medical Centre in Gloucester, after being admitted on New Year's Eve with a viral infection of the ear.

P-H-S



NO ESCAPE

Howard must restore public confidence in the prisons

Rarely has the Prison Service been struck by so humiliating a series of embarrassments as in the past week. On Sunday, the alleged serial murderer Frederick West was found, hanged in his cell at Winson Green prison in Birmingham. There have been two riots at Everthorpe jail in Humberside. Meanwhile, "three men" described by the police as "extremely dangerous" are on the loose because of lax security at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. Public confidence in the prison system could scarcely be at a lower ebb.

Derek Lewis, the service's Director-General, should have resigned last month after the highly critical Woodcock report on the escape from Whimoor prison. His position looks even weaker now. Yesterday, however, attention was focused on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and the degree of responsibility he should accept for the events of the last few days.

Few would claim that the death of Mr West, however regrettable, justifies the resignation of ministers. Equally, to suggest that a prison riot is the fault of the Home Secretary seems perverse. Conditions at Everthorpe are not unreasonable. Its inmates may indeed be aggrieved about the new restrictions on home leave and Mr Howard's general commitment to make prison life more rigorous. But such grievances do not justify violent uprisings of the kind which forced 150 prison officers into riot gear on Tuesday night.

Unless prisoners are denied all rights of free association, there will always be a partial risk that disturbances will flare up from time to time. All reasonable measures should be taken to limit this risk. But to call for the Home Secretary's resignation every time a riot occurs is to hand a dangerous political weapon to the nation's jail population. It is no accident that disorder tends to break out seasonally, at times of the year when it is likely to attract maximum coverage. The desire of prisoners to embarrass the Government should never be underestimated. They must never be granted the power to dislodge a Home

Secretary by persistent rioting. Far more serious than the Everthorpe disorder was the Parkhurst breakout. In spite of a high ratio of staff to prisoners, the régime at the prison appears to have grown astonishingly lax.

Mr Lewis admitted yesterday that the escape of the three men reflected "a failure to follow basic security procedures". He did not explain why he had failed to act upon the warning of Judge Turnin, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, who found "serious security defects" at Parkhurst in October. As it is, three dangerous criminals are on the loose. Sir John Learmont's official inquiry into the breakout must be unsparring in its analysis of what went wrong.

Mr Howard's more general task is to restore public confidence in the Prison Service: it is hard to see how he can do so as long as Mr Lewis remains at its helm. The Home Secretary must also press ahead with his new independent unit to supervise the work of the Prison Service. It is clear that communication within the system is still lamentably poor and that many governors do not fully understand their responsibilities. The service has benefited from its new status as a semi-independent agency. But, more than most branches of government, it cannot afford transitional difficulties as prisons shift from one system to another.

Mr Howard must also protect his own position. Because the Home Secretary has such a vast area of responsibility, it is necessary to draw a distinction between individual operational failures, which are rarely his direct responsibility, and major policy decisions, which always are. A Home Office minister will rarely resign because of an individual escape or prison riot: he would be expected to do so if a policy he had devised went disastrously wrong. But this distinction is absolutely right to expose it as a serious threat to the future of the United Kingdom (report, December 31).

Labour Party's proposals on Scottish devolution

From the Secretary of State for Scotland

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's incisive and timely article, "Into the quagmire of devolution" (January 2), should be required reading for all those who have so casually lent their support to policies to establish separate parliaments for Scotland and Wales, within the United Kingdom.

Some of the questions he poses might more aptly apply to an independent Scotland than to a "devolved" one, but he is right to blur the distinction because his conclusion, that Labour's devolution proposals would only be a temporary stopping place on the road to full independence, is inescapably correct. Why else does the smiling Scottish National Party go along with them?

Within days of his election, the Leader of the Opposition plunged breezily into support for the policy of a Scottish parliament, with tax-raising powers, demanded by his large cohort of Scottish Labour MPs. Significantly, neither he nor they — 20 years after the last devolutionist spasm — have coherent answers to any of the questions William Rees-Mogg poses, nor indeed to many more besides.

The three workable constitutions the article identifies all have their supporters. The Conservative and Unionist Party adheres to the unitary system, whilst Liberals and Scottish Nationalists respectively espouse federalist and separatist arrangements. It can at least be said for the latter two that, however wrong-headed, some kind of case can be made for them.

It is the fudged and facile offering of the Labour Party that is wholly indefensible. It is intellectually dishonest, born of fear of nationalism and the wish to appease it. The Prime Minister is absolutely right to expose it as a serious threat to the future of the United Kingdom (report, December 31).

Yours faithfully,
IAN LANG,
St Andrew's House, Edinburgh.
January 2.

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland

Sir, It is that very arrogant presumption on Scotland displayed by Woodrow Wyatt ("Knowing Blair for what he is", January 3) which fuels the dangerous resentment which is itself the most serious threat to the United Kingdom that John Major says the Tories will "defend with every fibre of our being" (report, December 3). How can he claim that a Scottish parliament will be "forced" on the Scottish people without a referendum?

At the last general election three-quarters of Scottish voters voted for parties committed to radical constitutional change, and every test of opinion since then has shown consistent majorities in favour of a strong Scottish parliament inside, and strengthening, the United Kingdom. Are they to be ignored and dismissed?

If Woodrow Wyatt, and indeed Lord Rees-Mogg, will not listen to Tony Blair, let them listen to one of that virtually extinct breed, a prominent Scottish Tory councillor, Brian Meek, and his advice last September to Conservative chairman, Jeremy Hanley: "A devolved Scottish parliament is inevitable: it is only a question of when, and once established it will never be abolished even by the Tories."

The doctrine that the United Kingdom's constitution is such a fragile flower that it must be preserved without any change or improvement is of course contradicted by all that is presently going on in Northern Ireland. Woodrow Wyatt may not like that either, but the other ultra-unionist, Mr Major, has at least seen the need for dramatic innovation in that particular part of the kingdom. Common sense should tell us all that the peacefully expressed demand for change in Scotland and Wales deserves equal attention.

But just in case the complacency of some drum-bashing commentators carries weight may I draw attention to the "delighted" response of that arch-separatist and former Nationalist MP,

Jim Sillars, who has called Mr Major's latest attack on Labour's devolution plans "pure dead brilliant".

Now there's a warning indeed.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE ROBERTSON,
House of Commons.
January 2.

From Dr Winifred M. Ewing,
President of the Scottish
National Party

Sir, I would like to endorse Mr Major's condemnation of the proposals by Mr Blair of the "new" Labour Party for Scottish devolution.

My party will do all in our power to convert the proposed Mickey Mouse parliament for Scotland into a normal one as enjoyed by other members of the European Union.

One in three Scottish voters last June gave their vote to our Euro-candidates who stood on the platform, "Scotland, independent in Europe".

We estimate that 43 per cent of the vote at the general election of 1995 or 1996 will give us the extra 10 percentage points and a majority of Scottish seats — Mr Major's requirements to allow negotiations to commence.

Yours for Scotland,
WINNIE EWING,
MEP for Highlands and Islands
(European Radical Alliance
(Scottish National Party)).
Goodwill,
Miltonduff, Elgin, Moray.
December 31.

From Mr D. J. Bridle

Sir, If Scotland is a nation then surely England is also a nation.

The proposal to divide the country into regions is insulting to the English and should not be countenanced.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BRIDLE,
9 Yeomans Orchard,
Wroughton, Bristol, Avon.
January 2.

From Mr Eric Stockton

Sir, My letter seems to have done some good! The power of the press is truly awesome.

Yours etc,
ERIC STOCKTON,
West Cott, Sanday, Orkney.

From Mr Godfrey Graham

Sir, It is a bad state of affairs when an Irishman has to advise the English on their national game.

The problem with English cricket at present is a lack of creative imagination. Sober administrators, usually ex-batsmen who do not understand the art of bowling, are framing the policy. The result: a preponderance of medium-pace bowlers and the total lack of encouragement of the slow bowler, especially the wrist spinner.

Ian Salisbury is no Shane Warne but he has got Test wickets. The selectors didn't bring him to Australia, where he could have continued to learn his art on wickets with more bounce made for Warne. English batsmen are mechanical and predictable in technique and any class wrist spinner will cause them immense problems. Because the wrist spinner is not encouraged they never learn the skills that are required.

As a consequence of the neglect of the leg-spin bowler in English cricket the results have been catastrophic.

Yours etc,
GODFREY GRAHAM
(Leg-spinner and President-elect,
Leprechauns Cricket Club),
28 Hillcourt Road,
Glenageary, Co Dublin.

Sports letters, page 42

England cricket

From Mr John English

Sir, Whilst Eric Stockton's suggestion (letter, December 31) of a two-tier structure for Test cricket may or may not make cricketing sense, it does not make economic sense and will therefore not happen.

Even a mediocre England side currently draws more Australians to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, more South Africans to Newlands, than do better-quality sides from most of the other Test-playing countries.

Further, whilst it remains as lucrative as it presently is for them, no sensible overseas cricket authority would seek to do other than to tour England as often as is practically possible.

Such tours also provide much needed revenue for the English county cricket clubs, without which many would be unable to survive.

A more fundamental concern than England's depressing recent performances per se is the extent to which they will affect the willingness of the English cricketing public to pay, often six months in advance, some £30 or so per day to watch representative matches in England.

Once the TCCB loses its ability to make a tour of England financially attractive to the major Test-playing nations — with matches against the counties and other representative sides — then Test and county cricket as we know it will disappear, probably within the space of ten years.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ENGLISH,
Wychwood House,
Little Barrington, Oxfordshire.
January 1.

NHS pay beds

From Mr John Studd

Sir, Barry Hassell (letter, December 23) is correct to remind us that the independent sector of medicine makes a considerable contribution to the nation's health care. We have to thank Harold Wilson and Barbara Castle's attack on NHS pay beds in 1974 for the establishment of a thriving private sector outside the National Health Service.

However, the great majority of these excellent hospitals, although boasting proud British names such as Lister, Cromwell, Wellington, Devonshire, Churchill, etc, are owned by foreign companies because of our own ambivalent attitude towards private medicine.

It is for this reason that we must support the opening of a ward of NHS pay beds at the Chelsea and West-

minster Hospital. We have a simple choice of allowing considerable amounts of money to leave this country to the American, Kuwaiti, Pakistani and French companies who have a major investment in the private hospitals in London or using the pay-bed revenues to support the NHS.

This logic seems overwhelming if we believe the Government's view, which I do not, that there are already too many NHS beds in London. If this eccentric view is used to justify closing down famous and efficient teaching hospitals it must be used to support the use of these apparently unoccupied or unnecessary beds for profitable and high-standard private medicine within the NHS.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN STUDD
(Consultant gynaecologist),
120 Harley Street, W1.
December 23.

Oxfordshire airport

From Mrs Martin Trowell

Sir, On December 28 the people of the villages in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire, found their lives potentially ruined and the value of their properties drastically reduced by a report on page 5 of your newspaper:

A giant airport is proposed, a mere 3,413 houses "affected", 87 demolished and any objections by the thousands of us in the surrounding countryside are branded as "tyranny of the status quo" by the developers. It seems these plans completely bypassed all the usual channels, thus expressing total insens-

itivity to the reactions of the people affected.

I trust the Government will kill this madcap scheme in its infancy and not condemn the whole of the Vale of the White Horse to years of speculation, uncertainty, a paralysed housing market and the eventual prospect of the ruin of this part of England, which contains many conservation areas and listed buildings, and which is known and loved by so many.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON TROWELL,
The Old Vicarage,
West Hanney, Wantage, Oxfordshire.
January 3.

Recalling Britain's Antarctic heritage

From Mr Paul B. High

Sir, John Young, in his interesting report of December 21 on the recovery of Scott's much travelled inkwell (see also letters, December 26), illustrates a concern far deeper than the dip of a great explorer's pen.

It took the enthusiasm, the skill and the money of our friends in New Zealand to take the initiative in preserving both Scott's and Shackleton's huts as memorials and as a resource for the youth of Britain to inherit.

Within the British-administered Antarctic Treaty Area there are at least 17 bases that need to be conserved as an integral part of our national heritage. Sir Edmund Hillary, in a memorable lecture at the Royal Geographical Society last October, outlined the importance of that heritage and gave his patronage to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, whose stated purpose is "to inform and educate the British people about their Antarctic heritage, and to preserve that heritage in the Antarctic and in Britain".

The trust, together with the Scott Polar Research Institute, has recently invited me to define ways in which our Antarctic heritage can be presented to the youth of Britain. During a sabbatical term this autumn I shall attempt to do that and also undertake my first visit to the bases on the Antarctic Peninsula.

I would be pleased to hear from your readers of ways in which the trust's aim might be achieved: of Antarctic experiences that might not be recorded in the scientific literature; of souvenirs from any British Antarctic base that I would undertake to return to their appropriate home; and finally of those who would like to subscribe to, and join, the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

With January 24 being the centenary of what may have been the first recorded landing on the mainland of Antarctica it could be that the great British public may not just dip into their inkwells, or even their consciences, but possibly their pockets too!

Yours sincerely,
PAUL B. HIGH,
c/o UK Antarctic Heritage Trust,
The Blue House,
East Marden, West Sussex.
January 1.

Christmas leave

From Mr David Burton

Sir, The BBC this morning gave us the annual whinge, this time from the Institute of Directors, about the length of Christmas holiday taken by industry in the UK. Let me give your readers the facts from the heart of the industrial Midlands.

Many manufacturing companies closed on Thursday, December 22, taking the Friday in lieu of May Day which in this region has always been a working day. The three non-Bank Holiday days of last week were taken as part of the annual holiday entitlement. Our summer shutdowns are not as lengthy as most of our European competitors and the number of statutory holidays is less.

Overall our industrial unit labour costs are now very competitive, which is why we are enjoying so much inward investment into foreign-owned manufacturing facilities in this region.

The regeneration of national confidence is not helped by uninformed comment from those who should know better. Let us at least start the year as optimists.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURTON (President),
Coventry and Warwickshire
Chambers of Commerce
and Industry,
Commerce House,
St Nicholas Street, Radford,
Coventry, West Midlands.
January 3.

Dressing the part

From Mrs M. J. Peel

Sir, It is to be hoped that the Reverend Edward Underhill (letter, December 23) does not patronise charity shops only to equip himself with "rambling gear". I can assure him that at least one well-dressed cleric of my acquaintance looks very smart at present in a nearly-new Harris tweed jacket which was priced at £3.95 but bought for £2, as we went to the shop on a "half-price" day. However, on telling my elderly mother of our "bargain" she merely observed: "That much? And in a charity shop too!"

Yours truly,
D. PEEL,
Linslade Vicarage, Linslade,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Fairy-tale ending?

From Mrs Sarah Jewell

Sir, Your report (December 31, later editions) of the attack on the unfortunate actress playing Cinderella, Julia Jones, quotes her agent as saying that she is a "real trooper".

Are we to assume that Cinderella's regiment is to be issued with glass footwear and that night exercises will end before midnight?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH JEWELL,
Tamar House, Coldmoorholme Lane,
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.
January 2.

SINGLE ISSUE HOOLIGANS

Direct action is an arrogant rejection of democracy

We are a nation of animal lovers. But that does not alter the distaste ordinary British people feel for activists who blithely announce that their violent vandalism is a legitimate response to lawful calf-trading. The cause of animal rights is not advanced by scenes of disorder in the media. Only those who seek to restrict personal liberty in our society can rejoice.

In a liberal democracy, political violence damages both the causes it claims to champion and the system of rights and responsibilities which tolerates lawful protest. Regrettably, the violence which has taken place in the name of animal rights at Shoreham harbour is not isolated. It vividly recalls larger disturbances that have erupted out of peaceful opposition. Last year, Park Lane became a battlefield on which police clashed with protesters against the Criminal Justice Bill. The year before, south London was the scene of bloody confrontation between police and hooligans determined to provoke far-right activists in their headquarters. Before that much of central London was smashed up during riots against the poll tax.

None of this is acceptable in our political culture. Indeed, the peaceful organisers of such protests almost always lament their violent ending. They invoke Britain's glorious tradition of lawful protest. They rightly

distinguish between the disturbances caused by a small band of determined trouble-makers and the legitimate actions of the majority of law-abiding protesters. Last night, Compassion in World Farming, which had staged a peaceful two month campaign at Shoreham, abandoned plans for any further demonstrations in response to the violence. Other animal rights groups which wish to distance themselves from the disorder should follow this responsible lead.

Britain's political system allows the representation of all points of view. Those who go outside do not deserve concessions, even if they do win airtime on national television by the nature of their actions. The ability to muster thousands of people to run riot on the streets of London may impress the cameras; but it is no mandate within an electorate of millions.

Peaceful protest plays a respectable part in our political culture. But the forms of direct action increasingly endorsed by some of the most established campaign groups deserve no such respect. Claims of desperation lose their political force when they become routine — as they have in this age of obsessive single issue lobbying. The incidents at Shoreham, Hyde Park and elsewhere show that direct action can easily degenerate into aggression. Disorder of this kind should be condemned unequivocally.

TRY, TRY, TRY AGAIN

September 1895: the first rugby league match is played

The origins of most games lie buried in the muddy scrums and mauls of folklore. Unlike that of most games, the origin of rugby league can be dated precisely.

Victorian England was the mother of team games. On August 29, 1895, 21 northern rugby clubs held a meeting that decided to break away from the Rugby Union. They were exasperated at the repeated refusals by the ruling body to allow them to compensate players for taking time off work to play rugby. Former public schoolboys in the City found it easier than the hard men from the mills and mines to make time off for games.

Nine days later the first matches were played under a different code.

The new rules were intended to entertain the paying spectators by encouraging more running and passing the ball, more tries, and less trench warfare, less heavy artillery of kicking. The two codes of rugby have diverged, between amateur and professional and North and South, and never the twain halves shall meet.

Which is the better game is a question beyond all conjecture. Only once have the alternative versions of rugby been allowed to meet to put the question to the test. Fifty years ago a rugby union XV met a rugby league XV, playing union rules. Both sides of famous players were selected from the Combined Services. And, surprisingly, the league team managed the alien code well enough to win by three goals to two.

For this centenary year there is a proposal to stage a rematch between rugby union and rugby league, at Twickenham under union rules and elsewhere under league rules.

Profits from the games would be in aid of some appropriate charity for the wounded such as the Red Cross, and would have the blessing of *The Times*. The matches might temporarily answer one of the puzzling questions that make sport philosophical.

The reason for the invention of rugby league has gone, now that top rugby union players are only as nominally amateur as Olympic athletes. But there is little prospect of the two codes amalgamating. On their day, both versions can make fine games. Off their day, both versions can be futile in the mud. Rugby league has the heavy cavalry and one of the few good novels written about sport, in David Storey's *This Sporting Life*. Rugby union offers more variety in depth, though now with excessive concentration on the hazard charge of the Garry Owen up-and-under. A scrum on the line can recapture the excitement of medieval mob football. Union is a better game for children because it provides roles for fat beagles as well as fit whippets.

But after a century of apartheid and class war, now is the time for rugby players of both codes to unite in part and end their unsporting mutual hostility. The two codes already learn from each other. The loop, in which a back passes the ball and then loops outside to take the ball again, is a league invention adopted by union players. At least they could make a break this year, by allowing a match against each other for the record. In the long run a rugby player should be allowed to play either code without penalty.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies scheduled for performance in London's Royal Albert, Royal Festival, Queen Elizabeth and Barbican halls and at St John's Smith Square during 1994 shows that Beethoven remains in the lead, with 49, while Mozart is still runner-up, with 32.

Mahler keeps third place with a praiseworthy 29, although some would argue that the discarded "Brahms" from No 1 should be counted as one fifth, not a quarter.

Brahms rises from ninth to fourth place with 22. Sibelius has 17, Shostakovich 14, Haydn 14, Tchaikovsky 12, Schubert 11, and Bruckner sneaks in with ten.

For the first time in 44 years Dvorak does not make it — he scores only nine.

The outright winner is a newcomer: Mozart No 40, 11 times.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.
January 1.

Universities in crisis

From Mr Nigel C. Hollingdale

Sir, While the Chief Executive of the Association of University and College Lecturers (letter, December 23) understandably draws attention to the issue of responsibility, she may not be totally correct in her description of the checks on maladministration in the "old" universities.

First, in a typical old university there is a governing council — a court in Scotland — on which there is a lay majority prescribed by the statutes of the institution. No university which sought to amend its instruments of government to substitute an academic or staff majority would secure the necessary approval from the Privy Council.

Secondly, too much emphasis should not be placed on the role of the "visitor". Not every old university has one, and in practice many disputes will result in direct reference to the courts. Section 206 of the 1988 Education Reform Act has in any case removed any jurisdiction a visitor might have in matters relating to the appointment or employment of members of the academic staff.

The hope must be that each university's system of governance will include appropriate checks and balances to obviate the need for recourse to an external forum.

Many of the recently publicised problems in the new universities seem at least in part to result from the Government's misplaced zeal for the "independent" members of their governing bodies, together with an entirely inappropriate managerial ethos.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL C. HOLLINGDALE,
1 Racecourse View,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire.
December 23.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

RABBI SOLOMON GAON

A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie with small white dots. The background is plain white.

But the congregational elders worried that his increasing travels took

He met General Franco and King Juan Carlos, was honoured by both, amazed Spanish ministers with his knowledge of medieval Castilian and the basis of Ladino, a Judeo-Spanish language spoken around the Mediterranean — and was present at the opening of the new synagogue, opening in 1968 of the first synagogue in Madrid since the Expulsion, the opening of the Sephardi museum in the magnificent El Tránsito synagogue of Toledo in 1971 (the synagogue was built in 1365 by Samuel Levy, treasurer to Don Pedro I of Aragon), and the historic ceremony of the signing of the 1924 Concordat when, in the presence of King Juan Carlos, Queen Sophia and the Israeli President, Chaim Herzog, he declared an act of reconciliation between Spain and the Jewish people.

He was a leading figure in the Gaon, who had stayed in New York during the frenzied debate, decided that the atmosphere was not conducive to a return to a situation where he had already complained that his authority was being undermined. He was a man of consensus, and he preferred to concentrate on the common interests, the education of future religious leaders and the preservation of Sephardi tradition and identity.

At international Sephardi conferences, he pressed for greater recognition of the Sephardi element of Israeli society, which needed help to overcome its social handicaps. He was a tireless worker in Israel for his scholarship and for his sensitivity to social issues.

He is survived by his wife Regina, nee Hassan of Gibraltar, whom he married 50 years ago, a son and daughter.

JESS STACY



He successfully overcame cancer in 1989, and is survived by a son from his first marriage to Helen Robinson, and by his third wife, Pat Peck.

Stacy settled in Chicago, where he arrived in 1926 with

back lasted about half an hour. Arthur fell into the hands of the whole crew, being on the deck. The Chinese had no understanding of the code for Port Arthur, and was very excited. On Thursday evening as almost deemed. On Saturday the English fleet under Admiral arrived and anchored. The roads were strewn with dead, rifles, ammunition, showing how in their panic to the Chinese had thrown away everything. There never before had been found with their torpedoes. The place could never have if the Chinese had had a pluck, but directly they saw the destroyers coming towards them they harbour, where certain death from the quick-firing guns in boats in front of them and from enemy behind. On the first day a few Japanese were captured, but carried away on sticks by the soldiers. This was the first time that the officers had no hold and a wholesale massacre estimated that the Japanese lost but they probably lost more; the is put down at 5,000.

SIR ARTHUR de la MARE

Having spent two uneasy years under George Brown at the Foreign Office, de la Mare was created KCMG and given the High Commissioner's job in Singapore. Although he had wanted the post, it turned out to be among the most testing of his career. The approaching end of the British presence on the island imposed great pressures on the High Commission throughout



Jersey Evening Post. He was survived by three daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

At last the renowned Chinese *navai* port and dockyard has fallen, for Port Arthur fell into the hands of the Japanese last Wednesday evening, after a very stormy attack by the Chinese and a very painful assault on the Chinese, who were estimated to have fired more than one hundred, probably more than 200, shots in its defence. About 4 p.m. on Tuesday the forts opened fire, but the shots were followed by a long pause, and at no time during the whole attack was the firing anything approaching smartness on the Celestials' side. The firing was kept up till dark. At 5 p.m. two men-of-war came in sight and steamed past Port Arthur, but were too far off to be fired on. After dark a "search light" was played on the shore and the Japanese were looking for the forts. At 6 p.m. on Wednesday the forts again resumed the firing in the same manner as the day preceding, and at the same time the Japanese fleet steamed past Port Arthur. At 4 p.m. the fleet returned, passing Port Arthur at a distance of about six miles; the Chiyoda was fired at from one of

The fall of Port Arthur to the Japanese in 1904 was only one chapter in the chequered history of that ice-free port of strategic importance. Diplomatic pressure from the West forced Japan to return it to China on that occasion, and three years later Russia moved in.

How we hated, or loved, our holidays

Can tour operators place much faith in magazine surveys of their customers?

Fewer people than ever before were completely satisfied with their package holiday last year and only half would definitely recommend their chosen tour operator to a friend, *Harvey Elliott* writes.

According to *Holiday Which?*, the consumer magazine, 8 per cent would positively discourage others from using their tour operator, compared with 6 per cent in 1993.

This slippage in satisfaction must be worrying for an industry that is banking on retaining customers. *Which?* says it nonetheless adds that eight out of ten holidaymakers would "probably" give their tour operator a recommendation. This is similar to the 90 per cent of customers who said they were satisfied with their holiday in a similar survey carried out by the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta). It also reported an increase in the number of complaints last year.

The big tour operators generally did worse in the magazine's survey than smaller companies, although Thomson was rated better than average and easily the best for holidays to Spain.

Airtours and its sister company, Aspro, were the worst of more than 40 surveyed. The top seven were P & O Cruises, VFB Holidays, Eurocamp, Portland, Swiss Travel Service, Brittany Ferries and Virgin.

Joining Airtours and Aspro at the bottom of the list were Cosmos, Kosmar, Unijet, Inspirations, Crystal, Enterprise, Olympic, Grecian and Sunworld.

Just how much faith can be placed in these regular *Holiday Which?* surveys is being increasingly questioned in the industry. P & O Cruises, for example, was placed top although only 30 passengers were surveyed, while Thomson was in the middle of the table, after 1,235 of its customers were questioned.

Airtours, which was placed second to bottom after 577 *Which?* subscribers answered the questionnaire, was particularly incensed. "Based on the sample surveyed, it is the equivalent of asking a non-smoker or a vegetarian what their favourite brand of cigarette or drink is," David Crossland, the Airtours chairman, says.

"We can argue with the results

of the report for an eternity, but when you consider that this survey represents 0.01 per cent of our passengers since September 1993, you can begin to see quite how misleading these figures are."

The company undertook its own survey which, it said, took the views of 300,000 individuals who represented a total of 800,000 package holidaymakers. This showed that 90 per cent were "totally satisfied" with their holiday.

Philip Ingham, managing director of Consumerdata — the company which conducted the survey for Airtours — said he was "amazed" by the *Holiday Which?* results.

"We can unequivocally state that Airtours' results are no worse, and in many cases considerably better, than the industry standard," he says.

Airtours has campaigned strongly to reduce the level of complaints and claims that a combination of tighter inspection criteria, quality "hit squads" and improved staff training had enabled the company to reduce complaint levels to well below the average for UK tour operators.

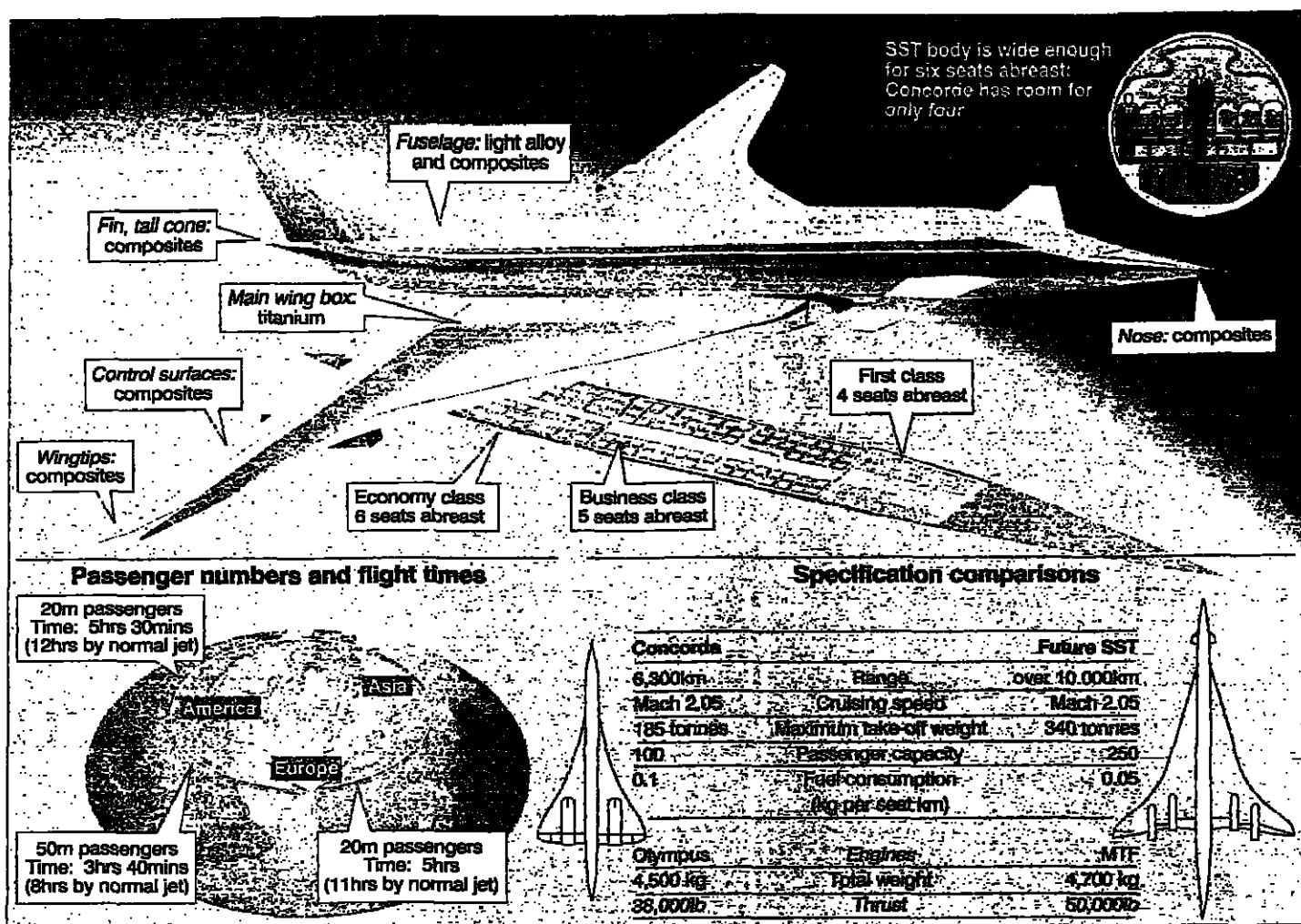
The company admits, however, that it still has a lot to learn from Ving, a sister company in Sweden, where complaints are as low as half a per cent of those travelling.

Holiday Which?, meanwhile, is adamant that its surveys are fair. It sent the survey questionnaire to 60,000 *Holiday Which?* members in September and October last year and received 25,500 replies. Of those, 7,731 had taken a package holiday since the previous September.

Those outside the industry regard surveys from the magazine as a true reflection of public opinion, but those involved — either as travel companies or as psephologists — remain deeply sceptical, largely because those who subscribe to *Which?* are, by their very nature, the most likely to complain and criticise standards.

For those tour operators in the 11 best-rated companies, however, the *Which?* survey is an important confidence booster and "proof" that they are performing well.

Supersonic travel: the next generation



The son of Concorde

Harvey Elliott warns that Britain could be left out of a new era of transport

The next generation of successful business travellers will be flying from meeting to meeting at twice the speed of sound in a worldwide fleet of 500 supersonic jet airliners.

Airlines and international planemakers believe that most technical and economic problems involved in building a successor to Concorde can be overcome and that the "son of Concorde" will be flying by 2006. They predict that during the following 20 years, at least 500 will be bought by the world's airlines, opening up a new era of high-speed mass air travel.

The costs of designing and building such an aircraft — estimated at least \$15 billion (£10 billion) — are, however, so high that only one version, capable of carrying 250 passengers at least 6,500 miles, is likely to be built.

There are signs that Britain's planemakers could be dropped from an international team designing the jets because of a lack of Government support. Plans from British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce to the Board of Trade for funding to

help them to research and develop techniques needed for the aircraft have been ignored — much to the chagrin of France, Germany and other European countries which are determined to prevent the Americans from taking the lead in the project.

By 1997 scientists from British Aerospace, Boeing, McDonnell Douglas, Aerospaciale, Deutsche Aerospace, Alenia of Italy, the Japan Aircraft Development Corporation and Tupolev of Russia, will have completed a joint outline design and will then decide which country will be responsible for building which parts of the aircraft. Those who have contributed most to research and development will get the biggest share of the work.

America has allocated \$1.5 billion to research institutes and aircraft and engine manufacturers for su-

personic research and Japan has spent nearly \$100 million.

France is pushing hard to become the leader of the European end of the project and the French Government is far more open to arguments that it should contribute to the research and development with hard cash. Louis Gallois, chief executive of the French planemaking company Aerospatiale, says that Europe as a whole must ensure that the Americans do not dominate the project. He believes that the spin-off from supersonic research would be vital in future European Airbus subsonic projects.

In 1994, Europe spent only \$15 million on supersonic research, compared with America's \$187 million and the Japanese \$60 million. "The European budget must therefore be increased to a minimum of about \$100 million a year — a feasible sum to my mind

and one that would re-establish our credibility particularly in our co-operative dealings with America," M Gallois says.

Market research shows that about half the international long-haul passengers would use a new supersonic airliner and would be prepared to pay between 15 per cent and 25 per cent more than present fares to do so.

The main aim now is to cut fuel consumption to no more than half that of Concorde through the use of much lighter composite materials, and by a big improvement in both engine and aerodynamic efficiency. Even though it is now accepted that the next generation of supersonic jets would still be based on flying over populated areas, there are still 150 routes over 2,000 miles long between 81 major cities which could be flown by SSTs.

Rolls-Royce believes it has worked out the engines that will be needed for the aircraft and if work on minimising the sonic boom is successful, it could also be used on flights over Siberia or northern Canada.

FARE DEALS

Head west at cut price

LOW-COST flights on the West Coast of America are more readily available, thanks to a new United Airlines "shuttle" service linking the large cities. Flights connect the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas with Seattle, San Diego, Sacramento, Las Vegas and Phoenix. One-way tickets can cost from less than £40. Details: 081-990 9900.

Star buys

FROM January 23, Eurostar trains will operate to more attractive schedules between London, Paris and Brussels. Return fares remain at £195 for flexible first-class travel, with standard-class priced at £155. A 14-day Apex excursion costs £95. Details: 0233 617575.

Stampede time

MEET the restrictions of Air Canada's new business-class Apex fare (by booking 14 days ahead and staying away a fortnight) and you can fly to Vancouver, Calgary or Edmonton for £999 return.

Golden offer

FULL-FARE passengers booking an AirUK flight from the provinces to Amsterdam can stay one night free at Schiphol airport's Golden Tulip hotel. Typical fares are £360 return from Manchester or £440 out of Glasgow.

That's friendly

THE US airline Delta will provide a free transatlantic companion ticket to members of InterContinental Hotels' Six Continents club. Membership details: 0345 626519.

Hot seats

FREQUENT flyers can secure a seat on virtually any BA flight, no matter how heavily booked, once they become a Gold member of the carrier's Executive Club. Membership details: 0787 310591.

On the double

BRITISH Airways' £199 "seat sale" fare is ideal for combining business with pleasure on a trip to Helsinki. Although you must spend Saturday night away, two people can fly there and back for less than the business-class fare for one.

Super savers

CUT-PRICE domestic "Super Saver" fares have been extended until March 31. BA charges £75 for a London-Edinburgh return, with London-Newcastle priced at £67.

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Snow crisis at small resorts

Doug Sager reports on the threat of Alpine bankruptcies and avalanches

The season is saved, so far as skiers are concerned. But for many smaller resorts, the snow is too little too late. Hotels, shops and ski-lift companies depend heavily on the holiday weeks for cash. Late snow has meant profits lost forever, and for some pocket-sized resorts in France, even bankruptcy.

Bare and brown only a week before Christmas, Alpine ski slopes are now covered, if sparsely, with white all the way down to the lowest ski village levels at about 800m. But the new snow brought problems as falls were accompanied by very high winds, creating the hazard of avalanches. They have all lives in France.

Despite days of snowstorms, which forced holiday skiers off the slopes as resorts closed ski lifts because of avalanche fears and, in some cases because of insufficient staff over the holiday period, there is still not enough snow in the Alps. In most areas, the new snow, which measured between 50 and 75 centimetres on upper slopes, fell on terrain that did not have a proper base of snow to which it could bond. On Monday, I skied knee-deep powder snow off-piste in Switzerland. In certain sections, my skis went straight to the bottom of the snow. And even at 2,000m, bushes and rocks were visible through the snow.

Official snow reports early this week showed that none of Switzerland's highest resorts, including Zermatt, Saas Fee and Verbier, could claim that all runs down to village level were open for good skiing. Meribel and Courchevel, France's most popular resorts with British intermediate skiers, were in no better shape. Meribel opened the week with only 32 per cent of its pistes and 44 per cent of lifts ready for skiers. Courchevel reported slightly worse statistics.

More lifts will open if more snow comes as predicted and as safety patrols secure pistes, which in many instances are being groomed for the first time this winter. Off-piste skiing will still be hazardous. Crevassees on the Vallée Blanche in Chamonix, for example, are still not filled in.

The January weeks of 7 to 14 and 14 to 21 — always good value — this year offer exceptional deals for late bookers who watch the snow reports. In France, a government failure to provide subsidies has already led to political wrangling and bankruptcies.

Six die in avalanches

AVAILANCES in the mountainous regions of western Austria led to the deaths of at least six people, police said yesterday, and two others were missing. All those killed were said to be German. The three avalanches, in the western regions of Tyrol and Vorarlberg, occurred on Tuesday after heavy overnight snowfalls and strong winds.

A police spokesman in St Anton, where a 34-year-old German died on Tuesday, said: "Two people are buried in the snow, but we have not been able to resume a search because of avalanche danger." Officials said there was little chance the two would be

found alive. They had been caught in an avalanche in the off-piste skiing area of Gampen Schöngarten. In Lech am Arlberg near the Swiss border, authorities said that a 26-year-old German man from Lindenberg in Allgäu was killed in an avalanche. Though still alive when found, the man died soon after being taken to a Zurich hospital. In a third avalanche on the Austria-Swiss border at Fimberthal bei Ischgl, authorities said four German skiers were killed. The victims were in two separate groups and were buried by the avalanche near the town of Ramosch. (Reuters)

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Living under a flight path can be a nightmare — but a total aircraft ban after dark could put the future of airports in danger

Heathrow's night of the long argument

Local authorities whose boundaries lie under the Heathrow flight path are still celebrating their success in proving that the Government acted illegally in its attempts to control night flights.

They claim triumphantly that the court ruling means that residents can look forward to undisturbed sleep and that the airlines will have to change their timetables to prevent aircraft from routinely landing before dawn.

Unless the Department of Transport succeeds in an appeal, there will now have to be a long period of consultation to try to work out a new, pragmatic way of curbing night flights while still enabling some early-morning services to operate.

At first sight, the protesters have a powerful argument for the

imposition of a total ban on the 16 aircraft that regularly land at Heathrow after 11.30pm and before 6am. The air transport industry fights tooth and nail to continue these 16 flights a night, despite the clear evidence of the distress they cause to residents and their families," they said in a recent newsletter. "We estimate that these 16 flights a night cause as much hostility towards Heathrow as the remaining 1,084 day-time flights."

Why, then, do the airlines insist that they are necessary? Almost without exception, the flights come from Australia and the Far East and are, therefore,

subject to the laws of time. Flight BA 028, for example, arrives at Heathrow at 4.45am. The Boeing 747-400 jet — the quietest in BA's fleet — takes off from Hong Kong at 10.40pm, which is less than 20 minutes before Kai Tak airport, which is in the middle of Hong Kong, shuts down. The noise as aircraft take off is far worse than anything which those who live near Heathrow have to bear from landing jets. That is why the new airport being built out to sea at Honk Kong will be open for 24 hours a day.

Until then, flight 028 cannot leave any later, nor can the takeoff be earlier or it would arrive in



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

London, after a 12-hour flight, at an even more inconvenient hour. Far East flights are largely business dominated and airlines argue that if Heathrow cannot accommodate them they will simply go to Frankfurt, Amsterdam or Paris instead.

Whether the airlines' arguments

are valid or not, there is little doubt that they are faced with a desperate conundrum. What do they do, for example, when the strong winds across the Atlantic blow European-bound aircraft to Britain earlier than scheduled, so that they arrive over Heathrow at 5.00am instead of 6.30am? Are they to be told that they must hold in an ever-more-crowded "stack", or are they to be allowed to land?

Some of the protesters claim that aircraft always land from the East in the early hours and that the use of alternate runways to spread the discomfort does not begin until after 7am. But would that satisfy the residents of Richmond, who

would still suffer one in four landings? Or is it not more likely to infuriate those who live in Windsor, who now have no early morning flights to suffer?

The transport department's attempt to satisfy the industry as well as residents with a complex points allocation procedure so that the noisiest jet was banned altogether, while the quietest was allowed in, clearly did not work. The department thought it would encourage airlines to buy modern, quieter aircraft. It did, but it did not satisfy the objectors.

Perhaps the department will have to return to a system based

solely on the number of flights rather than on the noise the aircraft makes when it lands — although that, too, is certain to provoke a new row.

In a recent Gallup survey of residents living near Heathrow, 8 per cent said that aircraft noise was their main concern, 16 per cent worried most about traffic congestion, and 15 per cent said crime was their main worry. Some 73 per cent had not been woken in the previous year by aircraft, although 12 per cent had been woken at least once every week.

Somehow there has to be a way of enabling aircraft which must fly between cities on different time zones to operate at "unsocial" hours while disturbing as little as possible the sleeping population below. To ban all night flights is not the answer.

Boat show visitors can almost taste the delights and dangers of sailing, says Barry Pickthall

Now we all can enjoy a life on the ocean wave

Eight hundred craft ranging from a £395 alloy dinghy to a £1 million Princess 66ft luxury power cruiser go on display today when the London International Boat Show at Earls Court opens its doors to the public.

This year the show is aimed very much at the family with opportunities for children to get afloat in Optimist sail trainers or try their hand at canoeing on the Olympic-sized central pool feature.

Others can test their balance on a windsurfer and both dinghy and powerboat simulators are there to provide beginners with a chance to sample the thrills without spills.

The industry, which like other leisure sectors has been gangbusters in the doldrums, has enjoyed a welcome increase in sales, particularly during the past three months.

"Prospects for the coming season are extremely good," said Dennis Lee, a spokesman for the British Marine Industries Federation, yesterday. "The market has been boosted by stronger export demand from our traditional European markets — particularly in Germany, Holland and France — and the Middle and Far East markets are also better."

Here at home, confidence is also growing. "The sale of second-hand boats, both power and sail, are well up since the Southampton Boat Show last September and demand for new craft up to 35ft is also showing a welcome increase," Mr Lee confirmed.

Fairline Boats, the only public quoted company within the industry, is one of the best barometers on the state of the

market. The company, which has its complete range of luxury power cruisers on display ranging in size from the Targa 28 to the Squadron 65, saw turnover increase to £35 million last year and posted profits of £1 million during the past six months.

Other signs that interest in boating is on the increase are the latest rescue figures announced by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution which show that lifeboat crews had an exceptionally busy year in 1994.

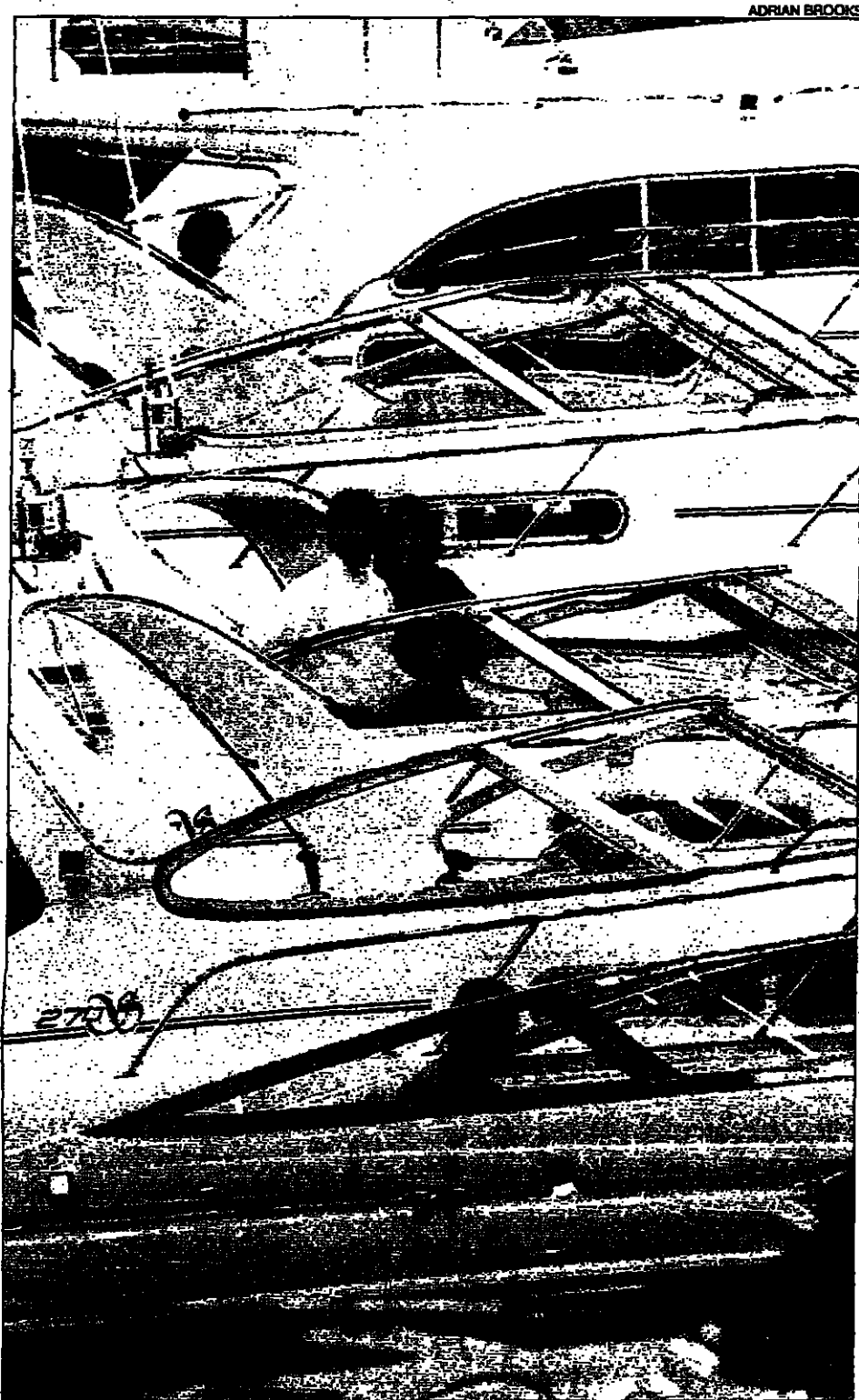
Provisional statistics show that lifeboats were launched 5,424 times, saved 1,442 lives and more than £31 million worth of property.

Pleasure craft accounted for the greatest proportion of call outs (3,060) while swimmers accounted for a further 1,024 launches.

The busiest lifeboat station was Poole in Dorset. The station's two lifeboats were sent out on a record 155 alerts. Southend-on-Sea in Essex was second with 126 launches followed by Torbay, Exmouth and Eastbourne.

Its rising casualty rate has led to the RNLI, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, to take a more active approach to prevention. Robin Knox-Johnston, who along with fellow record circumnavigator Peter Blake, have been nominated jointly as the BT Yachtsman of the year next week, took time out yesterday to launch an RNLI booklet, *Safe On The Sea*, which includes an identification form from the coastguard for boat owners to provide essential details should they ever be in need of rescue.

For many visiting the show, the idea of actually buying a



Visitors admiring the British-built Sealine sports cruisers at Earls Court yesterday

boat is little more than an idle dream. One man who has made a habit of turning dreams into reality is Chay Blyth whose latest round the world adventure, the BT Global Challenge, starting from Southampton in 1996, attracted more than 2,000 to apply many of whom had never sailed before.

Courtauld, one of his 15-strong fleet of 67ft steel yachts, has pride of place outside Earls Court for visitors to look

over while inside the show you can sample the delights and dangers of sailing in the Southern Ocean and climb into the meshed by simply donning a virtual reality headset.

Close by, the exhibition of marine photography, also sponsored by BT and selected from a 700-strong international entry, provides a glimpse of almost every aspect of the sport from a tranquil scene on the Norfolk Broads taken by

Times photographer Mark Pepper to the excitement of windsurfing in the towering seas off Hawaii.

London International Boat Show, Jan 5-15. Opening times 10am to 7pm every day except Thursday Jan 12 when it is open until 9.30pm. Admission is £8 for adults, £6.50 for senior citizens. Up to two children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. After 4pm, £5.50.

Travel chiefs' plea to minister

The great names of the tourism business want it taken seriously by the Government, reports Peter Hughes

Three knights of British tourism are leading an unprecedented deputation to the Department of National Heritage next week to ask the Government to take their industry more seriously. Never has tourism fielded such a high-powered team to fight its corner in Westminster.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, Sir John Egan, chief executive of the BAA, and the newly honoured Sir Rocco Forte are to see Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Minister, on Wednesday. They will be telling him that tourism, an industry which provides one in every eight jobs in the United Kingdom, should be given a higher priority in government economic thinking.

Sir Colin said last night: "The industry remains an also-ran in terms of budget considerations and status within the political forum. In the past tourism in this country took care of itself. However, as more and more nations worldwide identify the industry's importance as a creator of wealth and jobs, competition is heating up and we can no longer afford to be complacent."

The knights, together with Tommaso Zanotto, chairman and chief executive of Hilton International, and Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive of Thomas Cook, are representing the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), an international lobby group. Their primary purpose is to persuade Mr Dorrell to act as an ambassador for the sector in the Cabinet. They will be making three main points:

• Tourism's contribution to the economy has been underestimated.

• Britain should be more competitive, liberalising air transport, deregulating telecommunications and improving its tourism promotion.

• Barriers restricting tourism's growth, such as the lack of a single European air traffic control system, should be removed.

Geoffrey Lipman, president of the WTTTC, who will be accompanying the delegation, said there was now a prediction that three super industries would drive the service-led economies of the next century — telecommunications, information technology and travel and tourism.

"Governments are beginning to realise that this is one of the big export earners, investment generators and job creators," he said.

The WTTTC claims that the importance of travel and tourism to the UK economy is greater than had previously



Delegation members Egan (top left), Forte (top right) and Marshall (above, left) and Stephen Dorrell

been estimated to the extent that if "manufacturing" items like tourism consultancies, hotel building and sales of aircraft are included, Britain's balance of trade in tourism is in the black. This year the industry is expected to account for more than 12 per cent of

gross domestic product, earning just over £20 billion.

Tourism in the UK is expected to create 300,000 jobs over the next ten years — more than 80 a day. "The most important central message," Mr Lipman said, "is that you can create more jobs."

More visitors on the way

BRITAIN'S holiday resorts and ancient towns are expected to be packed with record numbers of tourists from both home and abroad this summer.

Harvey Elliott writes. The opening of the Channel Tunnel will bring in many more visitors from Continental Europe, while Britain's recovery from recession is likely to boost the number of domestic tourists.

The British Tourist Authority predicts that over the next 12 months 22 million people will visit Britain and spend an estimated £10.3 billion, as compared with the 20.6 million who came last year and who spent £9.5 billion.

Low transatlantic air fares will boost inbound tourism from North America, the authority says, and greater numbers of tourists from the Far East are expected. A festival of arts will be the main campaign of 1995, designed to "exploit the potential of cultural tourism". This cultural tourism area already accounts for

£2 billion of overseas visitors expenditure.

The authority will also be "looking to capitalise on the demand for short breaks" from French holidaymakers, now that travelling to Britain is faster and easier.

The number of trips of more than one night taken by Britons on all tourism purposes was 14 per cent higher between January and August last year than in the same eight months of 1993.

The number of business trips went up by more than 20 per cent in the first eight months of 1994 and this year looks even more promising, the authority says.

The only gloomy forecast it is making is for those British seaside resorts who rely on older people for much of their income. It says: "Low inflation may be good news for businesses, but older holidaymakers who depend on interest from their savings to fund their holidays have less spending power."

Tourists take new whaling trail

FIVE million people go on commercial whale-watching trips every year, *Marianne Curphey* writes. The tourist dollar has replaced the whaler's harpoon, especially around the coasts of North America. Mark Carwardine, author of *On The Trail Of The Whale*, says almost 15,000 people watch whales every day of the year.

Climbdown

THE Royal Bhutanese Government is withdrawing a ruling that would have pre-

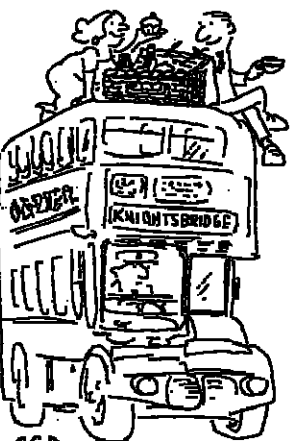
vented groups of fewer than four people from visiting the kingdom from the beginning of this month. A daily surcharge will now apply to small groups or independent travellers. These are £26 for a single person or £14 a person for a group of three. The mountain kingdom will not require groups of four or more to pay. One company specialising in travel to the region is Steppes East (0285 810267), which offers trekking holidays in mountains and forests.

Gran tours

NATIONAL Express, the coach operator, is offering the United Kingdom's 10.5 million pensioners return travel to any destination for £4.99. The offer starts on Monday, and ends on February 16, but excludes travel on Fridays and Saturdays. Up to 35,000 seats will be available and travellers must have a £7 National Express Senior Coachcard.

Sale rooms

LONDON'S newly renovated Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments (071-499 3464) in Piccadilly, has a special offer for shoppers to the sales — especially the one at Harrods. Until January 28, a package costing



£160 a person a night in a double room for bed, breakfast and dinner, includes a picnic hamper with croissants and coffee for guests while they wait for stores to open.

World offer

WEXAS travel (071-589 3315) predicts independent travel will continue to grow and is offering new round-the-world itineraries, add-on tours, hotel stopovers, escorted tours and small-group adventures in its new brochures. Prices start from £699 for a programme which includes Bangkok, Hong Kong, Perth, Sydney, Auckland, Tahiti, Los Angeles

and New York. Accommodation starts at £20 a room a night and travellers can also book a 20-night camping adventure featuring Yosemite National Park, Death Valley, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Los Angeles from £999 a person.

Nice touch

BLUEBIRD Express (0444 235678), the seat-only company, is to develop its services to Nice this year when it starts a weekly Saturday departure from Belfast. Fares will start at £179. Bluebird will continue with charters from Gatwick, Edinburgh and Manchester, with fares from £135 return. In December, the company began offering scheduled flights with Air Namibia from Heathrow to Windhoek from £575 return, with onward connections to Johannesburg, Cape Town, Harare, Lusaka, Livingstone and Maun.

Cooks' tour

LE Cordon Bleu, the famous professional culinary school, celebrates 100 years of its Paris founding this year. With the help of its schools in London, Tokyo and Paris, the establishment, owned by André Cointreau, is planning a series of lectures and events for 1995.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 5 1995

Whitbread set to desert Tories after mini-Budget

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Conservative Party is facing a fresh challenge to its finances from Whitbread, one of the country's biggest brewers and hitherto a staunch supporter of the Government. The Whitbread board will meet shortly to consider whether to renew its annual donation to the Tories, and the indications are that it may be cut if not stopped entirely.

The brewer is one of many in the industry incensed at last month's mini-Budget, when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, turned to drinkers, smokers and drivers to fill the gap in public finances caused by the Government's defeat over VAT on fuel. Whitbread is understood to have decided then to reconsider its support for the Conservatives, and this month's full board meeting, whose date is not yet set, is the first chance to do so.

The company could join a growing band of big businesses that have reneged on corporate support for Conservative Central Office,

which is already more than £16 million in the red.

Whitbread is refusing to comment, but a source close to the company said: "They (the board) really are going to examine seriously anything that has happened over the last year—that's going to have a significant bearing on any decision that's going to be made." The company, whose financial year ends on September 30, paid £30,000 to the Conservative Party in 1993-94, the same amount as the previous year. The year before, it raised to

£60,000 to help the Tories to fund the cost of fighting the election.

The company, along with the rest of the industry, breathed a sigh of relief when Mr Clarke in his November Budget chose to hold duties on beer, wine and spirits while raising revenue levied on petrol and cigarettes. Brewers had argued for a cut in duties to allow them to counter what they claimed was the growing threat from cross-Channel imports, but most had accepted a freeze would be a good result.

Mr Clarke's decision to levy an

extra penny on a pint of beer and 2p on a bottle of whisky on December 8 roused the drinks groups to fury, although one or two brewers conceded the rise on beer was as small as could have been hoped for.

Whitbread said then: "The Chancellor wanted to look tough in the light of the VAT debacle. Perhaps this will help his political problems, but at the cost of hundreds of small pubs that will go out of business."

If Whitbread fashions its own tough response to the Chancellor in the next couple of weeks it will be

following in the footsteps of another big drinks group, Allied Domecq, which last year cut payments to the Tories after giving more than £1 million since the party came to power in 1979.

Other high-profile deserters include Argyl Group, owners of the Safeway supermarket chain, Rascal Electronics and Lazard, the merchant bank once chaired by Sir John Nott, the former Defence Secretary, while long-term backers such as Taylor Woodrow and Tate & Lyle have cut back contributions.

BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| FT-SE 100 | 3051.8 (-14.1) |
| Yield | 4.22% |
| FT-SE All share | 1514.50 (-5.29) |
| Nikkei | 1894.04 (-38.08) |
| New York | |
| Dow Jones | 3639.49 (+1.01) |
| S&P Composite | 458.84 (+0.47) |

| US RATE | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 3-month T-bill | 6.75% (5.75%) |
| Long Bond | 7.88% (7.52%) |

| LONDON MONEY | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 3-month interbank | 6.75% (5.75%) |
| Libor 3m (1m) | 100% (100%) |

| STERLING | |
|----------|------------------|
| New York | 1.5815* (1.5830) |
| London | |
| \$ | 1.5811 (1.5837) |
| DM | 2.4361 (2.4305) |
| FF | 1.3930 (1.3900) |
| Sfr | 2.0498 (2.0517) |
| Yen | 158.27 (157.22) |
| \$ Index | 83.7 (79.2) |

| DOLLAR | |
|----------|------------------|
| London | |
| DM | 1.5806* (1.5838) |
| FF | 1.3930 (1.3900) |
| Sfr | 1.3130* (1.3148) |
| Yen | 101.28* (100.67) |
| \$ Index | 83.5 (83.2) |

| NORTH SEA OIL | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Brent 15-day (Mar) | \$14.30 (\$16.10) |

| GOLD | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| London close | \$375.58 (\$380.25) |

Flotation

Sunsail, the sailing holidays company poised for a £20 million stock market debut, is the talk of Ears Court as the 41st London International Boat Show opens its doors for a 10-day run. Britain's luxury boat builders report a rising tide of sales on the back of demand from mainland Europe. Page 27

Thwarted

Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, yesterday thwarted a directive to reduce the amount of American programmes on European television, by invoking a rarely used legal instrument that enabled him to postpone the vote. Page 26

'Blocking tactics' anger Gas rival

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS is rejecting many applications from householders who want to switch to cheaper suppliers, according to a leading rival. Norman Ellis, chief executive of Kinetica, said the rejections were slowing the spread of competition and alienating the larger domestic customers of British Gas.

"We find a significant percentage of those that are initially rejected are spurned because British Gas records are so out of date," he said.

British Gas said it was "not aware of a problem". A spokeswoman said that the company relied on historic records that failed to take into account increases in production, but an appeal mechanism was available.

The charge that British Gas is inhibiting the spread of competition coincides with growing concern about the impact of adverse publicity on the Government's plans to liberalise the gas market.

Clare Spottiswoode, who heads Ofgas, the regulator, has told the company that a string of public relations gaffes, ranging from the 75 per cent salary increase given to Cedric Brown, its chief executive, to abandoning bill payment at showrooms, could make it more difficult for the Government to get its planned Gas Act through the House of Commons this year.

The Act is designed to allow the phased removal of the British Gas monopoly over the supply of gas to 18 million homes, beginning in April next year. Most business customers can already shop around for gas.

The latest conflict with independent suppliers arises because under existing regulations, gas customers can switch to rival suppliers only if they consume more than 2,500 therms a year.

Advertising by independent suppliers, initially directed at business users, has prompted an upsurge in inquiries from families whose gas bills exceed the current £1,200 a year threshold for conversion. According to figures from the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission, almost 65,000 households use more than 73,200 kilowatt/hours of gas a year and qualify to convert.

Kinetica has set up an inquiry service that promises customers a cut of between 8 and 12 per cent in their bills from the moment they call, provided that their application is accepted by Transco, the British Gas transportation company.

Mr Ellis said, however, that wrangles often occur when customers are making monthly direct debit payments to British Gas, that show they use substantially more than 2,500 therms a year.

Mr Ellis said that he had no evidence to suggest that British Gas was deliberately blocking the spread of competition. "Under British law, you have to assume they are just making mistakes," he added. But every error added to the costs of independents and increased the hostility of customers to British Gas.

Kinetica is among a cluster of companies that have made deep inroads into British Gas' dominance of industrial and commercial markets. According to independent research by John Hall Associates, British Gas has lost 90 per cent of the main tariff market over 25,000 therms.

Since the market from 2,500 therms to 25,000 therms was opened to competition in October 1992, independents, including Kinetica, Alliance Gas and Mobil Gas Marketing, have seized a half share. According to Mobil, many of the householders who have converted are businessmen who have turned to independent suppliers for their company's needs.

But regional electricity companies, many of them working with gas producers, are also moving into the gas market, where they believe they can offer a cut-price total energy package. Most householders will not be able to switch to independents until 1998. A typical family with central heating uses about 700 therms a year, for a bill of about £335 a year, plus VAT at 8 per cent.

Sales surge brings cheer at Allied



Christmas celebration: Tony Hales, left, chief executive of Allied Domecq, the drinks group, and Michael Jackman, chairman, enjoyed a late but strong surge in sales of premium brands just before Christmas.

Allied said that sales to the drinks trade in the pre-Christmas week were running at 2½ times last year's levels.

The company added that all the signs were that final sales to customers were also buoyant and said the trend augured well for 1995.

Brands that enjoyed heavy demand included Teacher's Scotch Whisky, Courvoisier Cognac, Beefeater Gin, Harveys Sherry and Cockburn's Port. Consumer demand was so strong that

some brands were sold out in the rush. However, Allied complained about the effects of record levels of cross-border shopping, which it said looked set to continue because of the proliferation of offers of cheap ferry trips to France.

In spite of the release of the buoyant trading statement, the shares fell 1p to 535p.

Next sales figures have festive look

NEXT, the UK fashion chain, yesterday added to whisperings of upbeat festive-season trading statements from the high street with a leap of 35 per cent in Next Directory sales and an increase of 17 per cent in Next Retail in the run-up to Christmas (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The sharp rise in Directory sales in the period from August 1 to December 24 was achieved on the back of an increase in customers of more than 10 per cent.

Next Retail sales rose 17 per cent on selling space that was 2 per cent greater. Retail unit sales rose 20 per cent, a success that was achieved partly at the expense of margins. Average selling prices were 3 per cent lower and, as a result, the gross margin fell by about 1 per cent.

Britain's higher reserves reflect faith in the pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH

OFFICIAL reserves of gold and foreign currency rose by an underlying \$62 million in December, reflecting the currency market's general confidence in the pound after recent interest rate rises.

The underlying measure of Britain's reserves is widely considered the best published guide to how much the Bank of England has had to intervene in the markets in support of sterling.

The Bank of England figures, issued yesterday, showed that the actual level of the official reserves fell by \$105 million last month, leaving reserves at a total \$43.90 billion, still an historically high level.

Although pressure for an immediate increase in British base rates appeared to ease at

the turn of the year, rates elsewhere in Europe have had to be lifted to defend vulnerable currencies.

The Bank of Spain yesterday signalled to the market, through a new repurchase tender, that it was setting its minimum rate at 8 per cent. This immediately prompted leading commercial banks to increase their prime lending rates to 8 per cent, from 7.35 per cent.

The peseta continued to show weakness after the interest rate move, which surprised the market only with its size. Monetary tightening had been expected after the build-up of inflationary pressures and the political difficulties of Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister.

The peseta's troubles are expected to give the pound

extra support, as investors switch out of some troubled continental currencies and into sterling.

Ahead of today's session of the Bundesbank's policy-setting council, German call-money rates eased as the market prepared for no change in key lending rates. The first council meeting of 1995 is also expected to produce a further two weeks of fixed-rate repurchase rates, unchanged from current rates.

Although many analysts believe that the German central bank has lowered lending rates as much as possible for the current economic cycle, there appears to be little pressure for it to start raising rates yet.

Economic View, page 29

Liffe makes it 12 in a row with another record

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR



TURBULENCE in the world's financial markets last year propelled Liffe, the London International Financial Futures Exchange, to record volumes for the 12th year in a row.

The exchange announced yesterday that it traded 153 million futures and options contracts in 1994, an increase of 50 per cent on the previous year. This was a resounding victory in its fierce competition with Matif, the French futures exchange, which reported a rise of only 23 per cent in its volumes to 93.4 million contracts.

On average, Liffe traded 607,000 contracts a day during the year, with an average daily turnover of £133 billion. The fastest growth came from Liffe's newer European prod-

ucts, including its three-month Eurodollar contract where volumes rose by 134 per cent.

Trading contracts in German products also rose strongly and the German government bond futures became the exchange's most popular product after an 83 per cent rise in volumes to 37 million.

Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, said that volumes had been boosted artificially in March by heavy trading during the plunge in world bond markets, but that Liffe's underlying growth was still about 25 per cent. "We are leaving Matif behind," he said.

Liffe achieved record volumes in spite of a slight year-on-year decline

in trading in December when the number of contracts traded fell 4 per cent to 7.7 million. Mr Hodson said however that this was a traditionally quiet month and that the decline was not the start of any trend.

To maintain its growth, Liffe is now in discussions with Tokyo's financial futures market to establish a joint Euroyen futures contract. This could be traded for 24 hours between the two financial centres and increase Liffe's lead over other European futures markets even further. The contract could be introduced as early as the end of the year. Mr Hodson also said that Liffe is looking at introducing further European futures contracts, particularly where no market exists already.

Jermyn Street quality at affordable prices

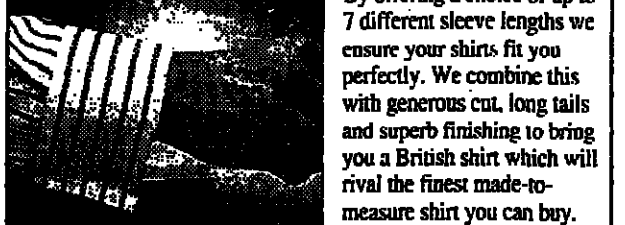
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Pay deals this year set to outstrip inflation

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TAX rises this year may fuel employees' pay demands, an independent pay study suggests today. However, it says that the inability of companies to pass on higher wage costs to customers may rein in rising pay settlements.

The latest estimate of current pay deals, from Industrial Relations Services, suggests annual wage awards are edging up, with most employers awarding higher rises than a year ago, and most deals running ahead of inflation.

IRS says that the impact of impending tax rises on take-home pay "will be an important factor" in pay negotiations over the coming months, and the company's study shows the effect on pay of the planned tax changes carried

out for it by the independent Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Looking at a range of jobs from the IRS pay databank of more than 10,000 pay awards, the study suggests that the forthcoming tax increases will put new pressure on employees' take-home pay over the coming year, though it is unclear precisely how far such pressure will lead to higher claims.

Using the IRS figures, the pay study says that the proportion of earnings to be taken in tax falls as incomes rise, so that a hotel room cleaner on £5,750 a year will pay an extra 1.6 per cent of earnings in tax as a result of the last two Budgets, compared with 1.2 per cent for a £12,750 carworker and 0.2 per cent for a top civil servant earning more than £97,000 annually. IRS says the tax pressure will combine with an

expected rise in the cost of living to influence pay. Its analysis shows that the Government's Retail Prices Index continues to provide a baseline figure for pay, below which only the bottom 25 per cent of settlements currently fall.

Any increase in inflation, as most economists are predicting, is "likely to exert strong upward pressure on pay awards." However, companies' continuing difficulties in passing on the cost of higher deals through higher consumer prices, together with the still-fragile nature of consumer demand, will hold back any rapid rises in inflation, allowing IRS to conclude that this should "mitigate against any sharp upturn in settlements in the near future."

Though ministers continue to maintain that the Government has as yet no evidence of increasing pay settlements, attributing the rise

in average earnings increases to higher bonus and other payments instead, the IRS report is the latest outside indicator that pay deals are rising. It concludes that pay deals are now running at 2.7 per cent — up only marginally from its previous estimate of 2.6 per cent, but the first increase at all since last August.

Coming ahead of the "crucial" pay negotiating month of January, the IRS study says that "the signs are that settlements will continue on a gradual upward path", with the pick-up in deals in the three months to November suggesting that the recent period of pay stability may now be over. Settlements will increase gradually throughout the year towards a figure of 3 per cent, the study says.

Economic View, page 29

American TV given reprieve in Europe

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, yesterday thwarted a directive to reduce the amount of American programmes on European television, by invoking a rarely used legal instrument that enabled him to postpone the vote.

Yesterday's delay amounts to an early setback for the new French EU presidency, which has declared this issue as one of its official priorities.

The broadcasting directive, on which the European Commission is deeply split, is part of an attempt by Brussels and Paris to safeguard European language and culture by protecting indigenous television producers from the competition of cheap imports from outside the EU, mainly from America.

One of the most important provisions of the directive is to plug a loophole in the 1989 "Television without Frontiers" directive, which theoretically restricted broadcasters to keep non-EU programming below 50 per cent, but with the caveat that this applies only "where practicable". The new directive would shrink the loophole by shifting the burden of proof on to the broadcasters in cases of severe non-compliance.

Even in its currently diluted form, the directive is opposed by commercial broadcasters, the British and Luxembourg governments, and a group of European Commissioners, led by Sir Leon and Martin Bangemann, the German industry commissioner. The strongest pressure for the directive has come from the French Government. The French position is backed by Jacques Delors, the outgoing Commission president, and João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese commissioner for media and culture.

Sir Leon yesterday invoked Article 4 of the Commission regulations, under which any Commissioner can demand that a vote be postponed for a week for further consultation. In practice, Sir Leon's move will postpone a decision until February, by which time the new commission, under Jacques Santer, the new president, will have taken office.

Sir Leon's official reason was that there had not been enough time for consultation. However, the move also appears to have been based on the calculation that in the new enlarged Commission it will take 11 commissioners to approve a directive, against nine at present. Mr. Santer, a Luxembourg, may prove far less enthusiastic about a directive harming Luxembourg, one of the main beneficiaries of Europe's liberalised television market, is host to major commercial broadcasting channels transmitting to Germany, Belgium and France.

The Commission could theoretically return to the proposal next week, but Commission sources said that this was unlikely because the Commission will then be in the "grey area" between expiry of its current term and inauguration of its successor administration. The current Commission has been asked to continue in a caretaker role because the European Parliament decided to delay the investiture of the new Commission until January 18, to allow MEPs from the three new member countries, Sweden, Finland and Austria, to take part in the vote.



Sun rises on another year: Kimono-clad women clap hands on the floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange to mark the first transactions of 1995 yesterday. The session saw the Nikkei average drop 39.02 points to a 19,684.04 close

Halifax forecasts more homes market gloom

By Robert Miller

HOUSE prices fell by 0.2 per cent in 1994 according to the Halifax Building Society's house price index published today.

Nor does the Halifax, Britain's largest mortgage lender, bring much cheer for 1995. The society says: "House prices in the UK generally remain unchanged. Some very small recovery in prices is likely in 1995, in line with the general recovery in the UK economy, but this will be limited by lower mortgage tax relief, lower DSS income support and possible further rises in interest rates."

The standardised average house price in the UK ended the year at £61,776 compared with £61,928 for December

1993. James Barty, housing economist at Morgan Grenfell, says: "There is almost certain to be a base rate rise in February or March and that will inevitably lead to an increase in mortgage rates. Against that backdrop, the prospect for the housing market during the year is for a very slow recovery and a pick-up that has no historic parallel."

The Halifax, which reports that December's house prices rose by 0.2 per cent, adds: "From April this year tax relief on mortgage interest will be further reduced to 15 per cent and the additional restrictions on state support for mortgage payments to people out of work recently imposed by the

Government will further delay any significant housing market recovery."

Prices paid by first-time buyers, often regarded as the engine of any housing recovery, fell by 0.3 per cent in December and are now 0.1 per cent higher than this time last year. The average price paid by first-time buyers is now £45,358.

Earlier this week Nationwide Building Society reported a similarly gloomy outlook. It said that house prices in 1994 had risen by 0.3 per cent, although on a monthly basis the society said that they were up by 1.8 per cent in December, compared with a fall in the previous month of 2.7 per cent.

Royal's finance director to quit

By Sarah Bagnall
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Dowdy is to quit as the £175,000-a-year finance director of Royal Insurance later this year, having helped to achieve a turnaround in the composite insurer's fortunes.

Mr Dowdy, 60, is to leave at the end of his current one-year contract, on August 31. He joined Royal from George Wimpey in the middle of 1991, when Royal was considered by many analysts to be the weakest of Britain's insurers. It chalked up record losses of £373 million in 1991, after substantial mortgage indemnity losses and a badly timed move into estate agency.

Royal made record profits of £311 million in the nine months to November 1994. Royal said that Mr Dowdy's departure was "totally amicable" and reflected the completion of the group's return to profit. Mr Dowdy is said to be considering his future.

Royal has made John Baker, chief executive of National Power, a non-executive director. The basic remuneration for a non-executive director of Royal in 1993 was £16,000, with an extra £4,000 payable for sitting on the chairman's committee and £2,000 for any of the company's other committees.

Fresh names on board of NI

By Our City Staff

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, publisher of The Times, has announced the appointment of Dick Linford as chief financial officer, Douglas Flynn, deputy managing director and general manager of News International Newspapers, also joins the board.

Mr Linford was previously director of finance at BSKyB, working with Richard Brooke,

the chief financial officer, and in charge of the day-to-day running of the financial operations of the company. He replaces Stephen Barraclough, who left News International to take up an appointment in America. Before joining BSKyB, Mr Linford held a number of posts with Occidental International Oil from 1977 to 1990.

Mr Flynn was appointed to his current position with News International Newspapers last February. He was previously managing director of News Limited Suburban Newspapers in Australia. Barbara S. Thomas, who joined News International in February 1993 from the United States, has resigned from the company.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.13 | 1.98 |
| Austria Sch | 16.12 | 16.62 |
| Belgium F | 16.11 | 16.11 |
| Canada \$ | 2.30 | 2.14 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.784 | 0.729 |
| Denmark Kr | 10.16 | 9.36 |
| Finland Mk | 8.04 | 7.34 |
| France F | 0.88 | 0.818 |
| Germany Dm | 2.59 | 2.38 |
| Greece Dr | 399.00 | 374.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.72 | 11.72 |
| India Ru | 1.06 | 0.98 |
| Italy Lit | 2635.00 | 2480.00 |
| Japan Yen | 172.00 | 158.00 |
| Malta | 0.619 | 0.564 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.876 | 2.846 |
| Norway Kr | 11.45 | 10.40 |
| Portugal Esc | 260.50 | 242.00 |
| S Africa Rd | rel. | 5.30 |
| Spain Ptas | 213.50 | 199.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.25 | 11.45 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.18 | 2.01 |
| Turkey Lira | rel. | 61070.00 |
| USA \$ | 1.658 | 1.528 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Brittan: invoked rule

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
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Insolvency Act 1986 that on 29
November 1994 N & L Life & S
Prison and were appointed joint
liquidators of the above named
company (hereinafter referred to as
the company) and have taken
control of the company's affairs.
Creditors of the company who
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address below. The liquidators will
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have not already done so should
submit their claims to the liquidators
in writing to the liquidators at the
address below. The liquidators will
consider all claims submitted to them
on or before 15th December 1994.
N & L Life & S Prison
Tea & Co
20 Box 810
Adelaide House
9-9 East Harding Street
London EC2A 4JH

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
pursuant to s.410A of the
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November 1994 N & L Life & S
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LEGAL NOTICES

BEST TRAVEL LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address:
31 Tinsley Parade, London.

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□ The future lies in futures □ Counting out the electricity companies □ A deal brewing slowly

The walk of Liffe

□ THERE is one British success story that is rarely written about. It was founded only 12 years ago but today earns almost £1 billion a year and has up to 30,000 direct and indirect employees. Even more unusually, this is no Japanese-owned car assembly plant or American electronics factory but a British-owned venture that consistently outmanoeuvres its competition on the Continent.

The business is the London International Financial Futures Exchange, which yesterday reported another set of record volume figures, showing that its average daily turnover is now an impressive, although meaningless, £133 billion a day. The reason its success is so rarely documented is that few outside the City understand what it actually does, apart from providing platforms for young men and women to wear gaudy jackets, shout loudly and make ridiculous gestures. Providing facilities for the world's financial institutions to trade the obligation to buy or sell financial instruments in three months' time is not the easiest concept to put across.

Such obscurity has not deterred Liffe from continuing to expand. True, last year's volume figures were enhanced by the turbulence in the world bond markets which sent investors scurrying for the nearest liquid

futures markets to cover their positions. But the underlying growth was still well into double digits. Derivatives are still a growth market, however much central banks fret about their use, and Liffe is adept at discovering what products investors want to trade and delivering them.

True, there have been slip-ups. The Bobl, a medium-term German bond future, suffered an ignominious death last September when it became clear that it was never going to break the grip that the DTF, the German futures exchange, has on the market. Similarly, Liffe's Euro-dollar contracts are dying slowly since the market is dominated by the US exchanges. But commentators who wrote Liffe's obituary a year ago, when the DTF and Matif, the French futures exchange, announced a grand alliance, have been disappointed. Liffe's volumes are now more than 50 per cent larger than Matif and its growing range of international products only emphasises how parochial Europe's other futures markets are.

Liffe is now trying to steal an even greater lead on its European rivals. Its talks with the Tokyo futures market to introduce a Euroyen contract would create a highly liquid future that could be traded on a 24-hour basis. Whenever a bank or institutional investor wanted to take a currency position, it could turn to the Euroyen.

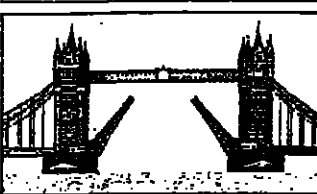
All this rocket science may seem a long way removed from the feel-good factor and Kenneth Clarke's finances. But whatever those men in red and green jackets are doing, it is a great help to Britain's balance of trade.

The Treasury's power play

□ ONE of the better guessing games on the stock market for 1995 is to decide just how many of the 12 regional electricity companies will still be independent by the end of this year.

The bears' analysis says 12: the Trafalgar House bid for Northern will be blocked by an unholy alliance of the politicians, the

PENNINGTON



regulator and the competition authorities, and other bidders will be scared off as a result.

This would be bad news for share prices and the millions of smaller investors who are hanging on in the sector in the hope of further gains, although it would not be without some justice given the huge profits such shareholders are already enjoying.

The counter view is that a successful bid from Trafalgar in the spring will trigger a feeding frenzy which would see the smaller companies like Seaboard, Manweb, South Western, London and South Wales gobble up by outsiders and, piranha-fashion, by their larger brethren, to leave as few as six large and well-fed fish swimming in the same bowl. The clear indications are that the £1.2 billion battle for Northern will be fought out in the political arena. The main political concern should really be whether the lights will continue to burn in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and its environs if Trafalgar is allowed to take control. But that is not how it is done in the real world. The bid does raise important questions of precedent, such as the extent that electricity companies, like the water sector, should be ring-fenced and made to operate as independent entities under whatever ownership.

But if, as seems likely, political considerations prevail, consider two questions. How would the Government feel about a bid that eventually deprived the Treasury of £300 million-odd of tax revenue, as Trafalgar's would? And how keen might the Treasury be to see the whole affair kicked into touch via an MMC reference until well into the summer, allowing the market's attention to be focused back on an issue that really matters to Whitehall. In all the bid fever among the RECs, the spring sale of the £4

billion government stake in the two generators is in danger of being overlooked, which would not suit the Treasury at all.

Plucking up Courage

□ AS THE days lengthen, the pressure is increasing on Courage, Britain's second-biggest brewer, to make some kind of pronouncement on the company's future, to the extent that a holding statement at least should be only a few weeks off.

The main *dramatis personae*, as well as Foster's, comprise Scottish & Newcastle and Whitbread, favoured British buyers, and Anheuser-Busch.

All the parties have their individual problems that are hampering resolution of the negotiations.

Foster's cannot walk away without ensuring UK production of its main brand at Courage's Reading brewery, to the extent that a ten-year deal is probably a requirement. US-owned Anheuser is big enough to take on the whole business but only needs

the Morlake brewery in south west London for its Budweiser product.

The two British brewers need between them to divide up Courage's assets, but what concerns them is another time-consuming monopolies commission inquiry of the kind that prompted Carlsberg and Allied-Lyons/Tetley to take their respective eyes off the ball after their merger was announced.

The winner in such an event would be Bass, the clear market leader.

One solution could be for Whitbread, the brewer with the strongest balance sheet, to cut the Gordian knot and take on all of Courage itself, parcelling out the business in due course as it can. Otherwise the situation could drag on for many more months.

Much ado...

□ FOR comment on the Finance Bill, over to Andrew Jones, tax expert at Ernst & Young. He fulminates: "How can this Bill be 348 pages long? The general reaction to the Budget was that there wasn't much in it. And the Chancellor put a lot of emphasis on the need to simplify and deregulate taxation in his statement. Yet we still have a huge Bill of length and complexity. Thank you, carry Ken."

Philip Morris to restructure food interests

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

PHILIP Morris said yesterday it will merge its two food businesses, Kraft and General Foods, in a restructuring designed to make the operations more efficient. The new company, Kraft Foods, will have a single corporate staff and will be based in Illinois.

Kraft said that it would consolidate the manufacturing and distribution of the two companies and eliminate a management layer across the organisation.

The moves will allow senior executives to work directly with business divisions, speeding up decision-making and increasing responsiveness to the market place, the company said.

Owned by Philip Morris, the cigarette company, since the 1980s, Kraft and General Foods have been criticised in the past for being badly coordinated, with large super-

market chains having to place separate orders with the various divisions of the two companies long after their systems could have been centralised. Analysts said yesterday's announcement bore the mark of Philip Morris's new food chief, James Kilts, as the driving force behind the fusion of the two businesses. They predicted revamped Kraft products, designed to take on new lines from RJR Nabisco and other competitors.

In Europe, Kraft and General Foods were merged immediately after the Philip Morris takeover.

Kraft, with about 55,000 employees, is the largest food manufacturer in the US marketplace and makes brands such as Maxwell House coffee and Philadelphia cream cheese.

The company said its new name, Kraft Foods, stresses

the Kraft brand, which is its largest, best-known and most successful trademark, accounting for more than 25 per cent of North American sales and more than 35 per cent of profits. The combined company will be led by Robert Morrison as chairman and chief executive officer, and John Bowlin as president and chief operating officer.

The company also confirmed that it expects to cut about 100 management and support positions as part of the reorganisation.

Last year, Philip Morris was expected to spin off its entire food business, a move apparently supported by the then chief executive, Michael Miles. Mr Miles was subsequently replaced by Geoffrey Bible, who is believed to be against the idea of taking the cigarette company out of the food business.



Pondering life afloat: Chris Gordon, left, and Rupert Green, finance director of SunSail

Boatbuilders sail into calmer waters

By JON ASHWORTH

BID rumours and stock market flotations are the talk of Ears Court today, as the 41st London International Boat Show opens its doors for a 10-day run. Britain's luxury boat builders report a rising tide of sales on the back of demand from mainland Europe and the Far East.

Organisers hope to sell £50 million of boats and equipment in the coming days. Industry-wide sales could top £1 billion this year.

Talk of the show is SunSail, the UK sailing holidays firm, poised for a £20 million market debut. The company claims to be the biggest operator of yachting holidays in the Mediterranean and publishes its pathfinder prospectus next week. Chris Gordon, founder and chief executive, said sales rose 20 per cent last year.

Elsewhere, rumours are rife over the future of Fairline Boats, the UK's only quoted boatbuilder, which was boarded by a new shareholder last summer after years of family control. The Newington family sold 29.9 per cent to Renwick Group, a Devon company ultimately controlled by Graham Beck, a South African businessman. There is speculation that he may mount a full bid. He also controls Marine Projects (Plymouth), maker of the Princess range of motor yachts.

Briony Newington, a director of Fairline, said sales rose 17 per cent in 1994. Germany, France, Spain, and Italy top the league in European sales. Mrs Newington said the Squadron range has given it

a strong foothold in the European luxury boat business. Fairline made a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million (£558,000) on sales of £39.3 million (£33.6 million) in the year to September 30. The Newingtons still own 25 per cent.

Marine Projects, whose Princess 66 is the biggest boat on display at the show, says sales have picked up strongly in the last five months. The company has launched a new "V" class of open sports yachts to compete with rival Sunseeker International, which reports strong interest from Singapore to South America. It is developing a new boatyard in Poole for its new range of 77ft motor yachts, which go into production in the autumn. The Boat Show runs until January 15.

Inchcape sells US interests

Inchcape, the international services and marketing group, has sold the bulk of its US insurance broking interests for \$50 million to Acordia, of Indianapolis, as part of plans by the companies to forge a global insurance broking alliance.

The deal, struck after more than three months of talks, involves the commercial retail broking business, benefits consultancy and workers' third party administration operations of Bain Hogg Robinson, the US subsidiary of Bain Hogg, Inchcape's insurance broking operation.

Bain Hogg, the UK's largest retail insurance broking group, was formed last year when Inchcape bought Hogg Robinson for £177 million and merged it with its existing Bain Clarkson business. Inchcape shares fell 4p to 425p. *Tempus, page 28*

First floating

Pentax, a Scottish oil company with production in the East Midlands and the North Sea, today becomes the first flotation of 1995, with a £22 million introduction to the Stock Exchange. Pentax was founded by a group of Scottish businessmen in 1981 and has avoided heavy investment in exploration, preferring to invest in known fields. Backed by loans from the Bank of Scotland, Pentax has built up proven reserves valued at about £69 million. *Tempus, page 28*

Hughes cheer

TJ Hughes, the discount department store chain based in the North West, said sales in its 13 outlets over the festive season exceeded expectations, rising to record levels in the week before Christmas. In the year to the end of January 1994, pre-tax profits rose to £1.6 million, from £1.47 million. *Tempus, page 28*

Disney tops \$1bn at the box office

WALT DISNEY'S Buena Vista distribution division has become the first company to gross \$1 billion in a year at the box office. Films distributed by Buena Vista grossed \$1.01 billion between January 3, 1994, and January 2, 1995, Disney said.

The *Lion King* animated film passed the \$300 million mark at the box office over the holiday weekend, with weekend grosses of \$2,046,582 pushing the film's box office total to \$300.4 million.

Disney said its holiday release *The Santa Clause* had become its highest-grossing live-action film ever, with a total to date of \$137.8 million.

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, Disney's previous top live-action film, had a total US box office take of \$130.7 million.



The Lion King claws past \$300m mark

Venture trust target queried

By ROBERT MILLER

LEADING venture capitalists last night questioned the Government's claim that the new-style venture capital investment trusts would raise £2.5 billion of much-needed finance for small companies within three years.

Details of the new venture capital trusts, which were announced in last November's Budget, were contained in the 1995 Finance Bill, published yesterday by the Treasury. The Bill has 141 clauses and is 348 pages long.

Jonathan Blake, director of the British Venture Capital Association, which has 120 members, said: "We would be very surprised if the sum of £2.5 billion were raised in the first three years. There are probably an insufficient number of decent investments to make that possible." He did, however, welcome the principle of the new trusts.

Venture capital investment trusts will, from April, provide a stock exchange listed vehicle that will invest in unquoted companies with assets of less than £10 million. Investors will receive up-front tax relief of 20 per cent, provided the shares are held for five years. In addition, they will receive

up to 40 per cent re-investment relief if they sell existing investments with a capital gains tax liability.

Ernest Fenton, the director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, said: "We, too, consider £2.5 billion an unrealistically high target. Nevertheless, some of our members have expressed strong interest in launching such a vehicle."

Iain Tulloch, a director of Murray Johnstone, the fund management house, said that the group would be launching a venture capital investment trust at the earliest opportunity. However, he added: "Managers need to have a national network to maintain a steady flow of quality investments. There is a danger that some regional groups may try to raise too much money and then not have enough decent companies to invest in."

Commenting on the Bill, Andrew Jones, national tax partner with Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, said: "Another mammoth Finance Bill will pass into law with many clauses undebated, and with no challenge to the underlying principles on which the whole process rests."

Office shortage 'set to lift London rents'

By CARL MORTSHED

THE London property market is facing a shortage of office space that could send rents in the West End and the City soaring by between 15 and 17 per cent by the end of the year, according to Richard Ellis, the surveyor, caused by increased take-up and a lack of new development.

The stock of new office space available fell from 6 million sq ft to 3.4 million over last year. If current take-up rates continue, this will represent less than one year's supply of new space, says Richard Ellis.

The surveyor predicts that we could be returning to a situation of severe shortage

of quality space towards the end of 1995.

As overall vacancy rates fell from 11.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent, rents are on the move. Top rents in the West End edged up to £42.50 per sq ft and in the City rose from £30 to £32.50. Richard Ellis forecasts top rents of £50 in the West End and £37.50 in the City by the year-end.

Stephen Hubbard, partner, said that incentives, such as rent-free periods were falling and cash payments to tenants had virtually disappeared on Grade A properties. The lack of new development in the pipeline, he says, should keep rents moving upwards.

Northern puts its bid fears to MPs

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

NORTHERN Electric, under a £1.2 billion takeover threat from Trafalgar House, is to return to political campaigning today by meeting Conservative MPs and party workers.

This will be followed by similar meetings with Labour representatives on Friday to put Northern's case that a Trafalgar takeover — which must, in any event, wait until after the March 31 expiry of the Government's controlling "golden share" — will not be in the interests of its consumers.

The bid is currently bogged down with the competition authorities. The industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, has also indicated that he

will want to consider its implications for Northern's 1.3 million customers.

Northern is expected to remind MPs that it has the lowest relative prices of any of the regional electricity companies in England and Wales, and that the regulator has deemed it to provide the best customer service in the industry. It will also point to its local employment record.

Northern is not, itself, pressing formally for a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which would stall the bid for much of summer.

Pennington, this page
Stock Market, page 28

Embarrassing admission after 'accounting error'

How a missing minus raised shareholders' hopes

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

AN ACCOUNTANT who forgot to place a minus sign made the largest mutual fund in the world richer by \$2.6 billion and was the cause of Fidelity Investments' embarrassing admission to investors that it would not, after all, be paying them an end-of-year dividend.

Shareholders in the Magellan Fund were told in December that there would be no payout because of what Fidelity then described only as

"an accounting error". Analysts speculated that the Boston-based financial services giant must be using elaborate, computer-generated accounting methods, and that an error had occurred amid the complexities.

However, in a letter to Magellan shareholders, Gary Burkhead, managing director of Fidelity Investments, admitted that an unnamed accountant had caused the error when transcribing the fund's financial records to a spreadsheet.

The accountant left out the minus sign on a

net capital loss of \$1.3 billion and incorrectly treated it as a net capital gain. This meant that the dividend estimate spreadsheet was off by \$2.6 billion. The company went on to predict a year-end distribution of \$4.32 a share, only to have to retract it later.

"As soon as the error was discovered, we issued a public statement to inform Magellan's shareholders of the change," Mr Burkhead wrote. "The error had nothing to do with the level of actual gains or losses in the fund, or the fund's net asset value: it only affected the

calculation of the estimate of the distribution. Some people have asked how, in this age of technology, such a mistake could be made. While many of our processes are computerised, the requirements of the tax code are complex and dictate that some steps be handled manually by our tax managers and accountants, and people can make mistakes."

A chastened Fidelity will, in future, subject estimates to the same "rigorous verification" process that it gives to the distributions the funds actually pay, Mr Burkhead promised.

new low over the Christmas period.

An up-beat trading statement lifted European shares 15p to 312p. The company reports that it took 12,000 bookings for its Le Shuttle service between London and Paris during the last two weeks of December and is now operating a 24-hour service with about 40 departures a day. By the end

easier at 535p after reporting that sales of its spirits division, which includes Teacher's, which whisky and Beefeater gin, had enjoyed a strong run-up to Christmas. Trade sales during the week before Christmas soared more than two-and-a-half times, with sales to customers also buoyant.

Also enjoying a bumper Christmas was TJ Hughes.

BRITISH Airways ended 2p lower at 361p in reaction to the news that Virgin is to be allowed to pursue its billion dollar "dirty tricks" claim through the US courts. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, is unperturbed and says any weakness in the BA price should be seen as a buying opportunity.

of last month, 65,000 heavy goods vehicles, 82,000 cars, 700 Eurostar trains and 1,200 railfreight trains had travelled through the tunnel. Brokers now fear that the success of Le Shuttle could be bad news for the ferry operators, including P&O, which has started to offer cheap day trips across the Channel. P&O shares fell 14p to 596p.

| Year | Share Price (pence) |
|------|---------------------|
| 1990 | 700 |
| 1991 | 720 |
| 1992 | 740 |
| 1993 | 720 |
| 1994 | 710 |
| 1995 | 700 |

The graph displays the FTSE 100 share index (recessed) over a 13-month period from January to January. The y-axis represents the index value, ranging from 540 to 680 in increments of 20. The x-axis shows the months: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, and Jan. The index starts at approximately 640 in January, peaks at 680 in February, and then shows significant volatility with multiple peaks and troughs, ending at approximately 580 in the final January.

Zeneca is seeking permission from European countries to market Zestril, used for the treatment of heart attack victims. It is currently registered for the treatment of hypertension and congestive heart failure in most of the world's major markets.

Street Investments, was steady at 11.2 p as shareholders gave its £10.8 million cash call the cold shoulder. Acceptances totalled less than 50 per cent of the issue, which was priced at 12p in November. The ramp of the shares have now been placed with institutions. The electronics components group wants the money to help finance the £16 million ac-

pany with production in the East Midlands and the North Sea, became the first flotation of 1995 with a £22 million introduction to the Exchange.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts shrugged off some of their recent dullness as a stronger pound and positive performance from US Treasury bonds prompted investors to cover some of their short

positions. In the futures pit, a total of 39,000 contracts were completed as the March series of the Long Gilt climbed £17.52 to £100.4.

In conventional issues, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 ran up ½ to £103.1½, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 firmed five ticks to £102½.

NEW YORK: Blue chips traded in a tight range and were almost unchanged at midday as analysts said there was little news or data to move markets. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.01 at 3,839.40.

| RECENT ISSUES | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Asset Mgmtmnt Inv (100) | 98 | ... |
| BSkys | 255 ¹ | -1 |
| British Ais Gth | 63 | -1 |
| Clydeport | 168 | +1 |
| Euclidian (100) | 97 | ... |
| Fidelity Sp Val | 92 | ... |
| Fidelity Sp Val W | 29 | ... |
| First Russ Fds (\$10) | 620 | ... |
| Fleming Nat Res (100) | 92 | ... |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| RAP Group | 138 | ... |
| RM (175) | 207 | +1 |
| Residential Prop | 101 | ... |
| SeaPerfect (120) | 128 | ... |
| Television Comm (182) | 168 | ... |
| Wellington Under (100) | 102 | ... |
| Woodchester Uts | 123 | ... |

| | | |
|------------------------|----|----|
| RIGHTS ISSUES | | |
| Inspirations n/p (120) | 11 | -2 |
| MV n/p (52) | 1 | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----|
| OMI n/p (37) | 2 | ... |
| Powell Duffryn n/p (440) | 53 | +4 |
| Torstar Lels n/p (10) | 1 | ... |
| Trio n/p (25) | 1 | ... |
| Verde n/p (7) | 3 | -4 |
| Wlkr Gmbnk n/p (90) | 9 | -1 |

| MAJOR CHANGES | |
|---|--|
| RISES: Jardine Math 496p (+48p) Philip Harris 167p (+13p) | |
| FALLS: Courtaulds 449p (-12p) Croda 373p (-14p) Broken Hill 957p (-40p) | |
| Closing Prices Page 31 | |

Acordia relations

The small broking chain was not an attractive business. With a network of only 38 offices spread throughout the country, it was too small to compete effectively with the major brokers, particularly since it only offered a vanilla-flavoured range of property and casualty insurance and benefit consultancy. Its 1993 results, when it turned in a profit of only £750,000 on a £44 million turnover, reflect the pressure it was under. Other brokers with small American businesses have found them virtually unsaleable.

In the event, Inchcape has been fortunate to

raise as much as £32 million from the disposal, and the proceeds will repay a substantial piece of the £177 million that Inchcape paid for Hogg last year. In addition, Bain Hogg's growing association with Acoria, the buyer, should distil into a full joint venture by the end of June. The deal leaves Bain Hogg without any meaningful presence in North America, but Acoria's network should provide it with a stream-of US wholesale business to place in the London market.

Acoria and Bain Hogg, as the sixth and seventh largest brokers in the world, need each other to offer the same global network as their larger rivals. One day Inchcape may even be tempted to tie the two together more closely. Until then, Inchcape has ready access to the US insurance market without having to commit any capital to it.

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Behind this bar marketing and publications however, Eurofinances are as uncertain as ever. Based on yesterday's business figures it is likely that it turned more than £20 million year. This is well below the company's October

overcrowded oil export and production sectors. The new year brings a further twist. Pentex is unusual in that it barely touches exploration. It has been almost entirely bank financed, and its management — wisely, it is thought — has sought to minimise the risk by acquiring production assets in lower risk fields. New wells and

techniques have Pentex to make more from 100-plus oddities keys in the East Midland.

Pentex has ambitions to grow, and investors will now should expect a call, possibly before it is out, to fund acquisition of the North Sea. In small exploration, Pentex is not without gearing is high which maximise any boost in price, but leaves the company vulnerable to a sharp fall.

A company geared

Since Eurotunnel is paying £2 million a day in interest, such revenue is completely inadequate. Even with 24-hour operation and higher summer fares, the

The graph shows a line representing the percentage of the population in the labor force. The x-axis is labeled with 'Oct' and 'Nov'. The line starts at a high point in early October, drops sharply to a low point around mid-October, and then rises steadily through November, ending at a point higher than the mid-October low but lower than the initial October peak.

TJ Hughes
READING trading statements is like eating choco-

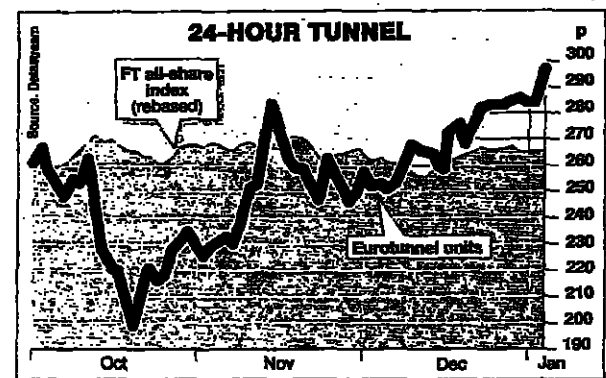
Nevertheless, the City is about to be showered with trading statements from all the main retailers about how they fared over Christmas. TJ Hughes, the small discount department store company, is one of the first to publish, with the intention no doubt that its good news should not be overshadowed by any of the larger groups

meet its £525 million revenue projection for 1995. Meanwhile, it continues to draw heavily on the cash from last year's rights issue. Unless revenues improve sharply this summer, Eurotunnel could be faced with another funding shortage. It will have to punch a great many more tickets to avoid such an

tions, but it would be useful to know what those expectations were. The most helpful comment is that figures for the year to January 31 will confirm market expectations, allowing the few City analysts who cover the company to confirm the forecast of a £1.9 million profit that they have in their spreadsheets. It was no doubt entirely coincidental

Unfortunately, Hughes's experience gives few clues about how the rest of the high street fared. As a discount retailer, it should always prosper when shoppers feel hard up. Barring any good surprises from the larger retailers, Christmas 1994 still seems a time of little cheer in the shopping centres.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT



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A company gear

dividends until 1996. With no new shares available, the market will be thin and investors keen for a punt ought to wait for the first acquisition and any ensuing rights issue.

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EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

STREET **1950**

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Reaching the parts

IF, FOR one idle moment, you ever thought HM Treasury is tight with the purse strings, then pity poor Hercules, who stands in the gardens of the British Geological Survey in Nottingham, and in whom, in 1883, the Lords Commissioners took a particular interest. And all because of a bill for £7 7s 0d. The statue, commissioned for the Great Exhibition of 1881, and installed in the Museum of Practical Geology in London that year, cost £170 17s 0d. Hercules, fashioned from a single 15-ton block, was acclaimed as a fine example of the suitability of Jurassic Portland stone. But Lady Gellie, the then curator's wife, did not applaud. She deemed Hercules' nudity so offensively obscene that stone-masons were ordered to remodel him. Their bill was £7 7s 0d, and the Treasury balked. History records that Hercules' offending parts, sawn off with such skill that they could at any time be replaced, were preserved in a velvet-lined mahogany box which over the next 90 years was faithfully handed down from curator to curator. In 1977, it was decided Hercules should be restored. The 1977 restoration cost £223 — and if the Treasury had not interfered with him in the first place, the Government's coffers would today be a lot fatter than they are.



Hercules restored

On the up

TO PROVE you don't have to be elderly, or Japanese, to do well at Nikko Europe, the Japanese broker has elevated a fourth local man, Philip Brown, to joint managing director of Nikko Europe's capital markets and is the youngest locally appointed in the past 12 months. When he joined Nikko, he was 23. Even now, he is only 33.

Down and win

AND to prove you don't have to be young to succeed, George Stevens, chairman of Brockbank Group, a Lloyd's of London agency, has won the Sir Roger Gibbs cup in a Cresta run race at St Moritz — at 62.

YET more suggestions for a new name for British Invisibles: Conceptual Commodities and Ne Plus Ultra. Keep them coming.

Fighting back

LORD and Lady Mishcon, recovering from their Christmas burglary ordeal, will no doubt sympathise with Tom Wilnot, former head of Harvard Securities, who was accosted in his car in London's Kings Road over the festivities by two men who tried to steal his gold Rolex. Wilnot, a healthy 17 stone, fought them off with the aid of three bystanders, and wants to pass on his thanks. The miscreants spent Christmas residing at Her Majesty's pleasure.

LATEST status symbol in Japan is a sustained left arm. Young Japanese see it as a sign that the owner drives a foreign-made left-hand drive car.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

GRAHAM SEARJEANT



Symbolic pay debate focuses minds on scourge of poverty

Underpaid work is not a long-term solution to unemployment in the UK

Poverty is the scourge of the British economy. Greater numbers of genuinely poor people, rather than general economic failure, probably explain why income per head in Britain has fallen behind that in most West European countries. Poverty has become the main generator of the secular rise in public spending and taxation. Incomes far below the average do not, of themselves, breed crime and other costly social problems. But when the joys of consumer affluence are bombarded ever faster into our living rooms, poor people need to be ever more virtuous if that is to be avoided.

This central economic issue is scarcely disputed. Possible solutions could hardly be further apart. None will be more controversial, or more symbolic, in the coming electoral debate than Labour's commitment to introduce a national minimum wage. At its heart are two simple arguments. The more people who earn wages capable of keeping them at a decent standard, the healthier the economy will be. Yet any rise in the cost of labour is likely to reduce the potential demand, and unemployment is still the biggest cause of family poverty.

Perhaps the best test of a minimum wage, if it could be made in advance, would be whether it cuts or raises public spending. Big savings are made whenever anyone is transferred from the ranks of the unemployed to paid work. But if the cost of that is a general fall in the rate of pay at the bottom of the scale, so that many more people claim a series of other top-up benefits, net public spending may rise. This can happen, for instance, when one relatively well-paid job is effectively split into two part-time jobs, a strong trend in retail and other trades. Each part-time job generates a lower weekly income and generally carries much lower hourly pay rates.

Government policy concentrates on job creation and on improving incentives to leave the dole queue. That was the case for abolishing Wages Councils, which set minimum pay for most traditional low-paid trades. It is also the thinking behind better income supplements for families with low pay, and even the job subsidies for single people mooted in the November Budget. But many employers have learnt how to exploit the incentives in the social security system too. As a result, more and more jobs are being subsidised by taxpayers.

Abolishing Wages Councils has not proved an obvious boon. Some appallingly low wages have fallen further. There is little evidence of full-



Almost everything has changed in farming, but the industry still favours a statutory minimum wage

time jobs being created as a direct result in most areas covered, though many were already in decline. Many employers are less enthusiastic about abolishing the minimum than ministers assumed.

Employers in the knitwear industry negotiated a voluntary national minimum four years ago. Just before Christmas, it was raised 3.25 per cent to a princely £3 an hour. As the union negotiator noted, it does not seem to have caused employers great problems or to have accelerated job losses, as employers originally feared. Knitwear and hosiery are heavily exposed to imports from cheap-labour countries.

Less surprising, given the greater degree of trade protection, farmers have just opted to keep the last remaining statutory industry pay-setting body. To the Ministry of Agriculture's embarrassment, it received only ten letters supporting abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board, but 3,500 against. In June, the board raised minimum weekly pay for 180,000 people by 4.9 per cent to £135. On a standard 40-hour week (admittedly not something familiar to farm workers) that would equate to about £3.63 an hour.

One of the most alarming employer studies was conducted four years ago for the British Hospitality Association, whose members employ more than two million people. Using a hypothetical minimum wage of £3.40 an hour, a figure favoured by trade unions at that time, it found that more than half employers would expect to cut jobs. The basis for this, like all dire warnings of massive job losses, is that a minimum wage would jack up the whole pay structure to maintain differentials. Raising pay for those directly affected would

have added 6 per cent to pay bills, but the knock-on effects for other grades would multiply this sixfold.

Since then, average earnings in the service industries have risen about 11 per cent. So a £3.40 minimum would presumably have little or no effect now, save where the lowest rates had shrunk even further below the average. This illustrates the most critical, but neglected area of the minimum wage debate: where would the minimum be set, and for what purpose?

America, academy for government employment policy,

6 More and more jobs are being subsidised by taxpayers

has a minimum. But it has fallen so low in real terms that it does little for good or ill. The majority of continental countries favour 60 per cent or more of median earnings but many minimum wages are not uniform. Most are contractual, not statutory, and may not, be effective in some of the most sensitive areas.

At one extreme, the Council of Europe "decent threshold", 68 per cent of average earnings, would imply a minimum £5.75 an hour in Britain. That would raise pay rates for nine million workers, before their jobs disappeared, and is clearly aimed at income redistribution. At the opposite extreme, the Liberal Democrats are thinking of a regionally variable minimum of about £3 an hour. That might help one million but mainly safeguard against the worst existing ex-

ploitation and further cuts in rates at the bottom end.

The Low Pay Unit, which has campaigned long for a minimum, favours a slightly more modest two thirds of median male earnings, currently about £5.42. But it admits that would be disruptive and would settle for an initial half, worth just over £4 an hour. It reckons hourly rates would rise for four million, over 70 per cent of them women. That is what Labour had in mind before it shied away from a figure.

Surprising support came from a survey last month of 500 company finance directors and controllers, mainly in manufacturing, by the Chartered Association of Management Accountants. A third of the sample actually supported a minimum wage as high as £4.50. Two thirds would not expect to reduce staff numbers as a result and only a quarter thought they would need to raise prices. But most employers pay decent wages.

Labour was wise to back away from a crowd-pleasing figure. Any national minimum must reflect reality at the competitive margin, rather than aspiration. It is absurd to suppose that everyone could find a job if wages were allowed to find their own floor. In the days of slavery, people were thrown off American plantations during price slumps because their output was not worth their subsistence. It is equally absurd to think that the living standards of many millions can be raised at a stroke by government fiat.

A rate of £4 an hour would surely cost jobs in knitting and hosiery. Many service industries facing minimal foreign competition could, however, afford to pay better wages than they do if they knew that all the other firms in their



ANTHONY HARRIS

Where to beware of the thin ice

The winter holiday is the traditional season for spooky stories: they enliven those long evenings round the fire. The stock market, currently in hibernation, needs distraction too; and this year's spook is a possible Wall Street crash.

Why should the market crash in a booming economy, with a Congress much to its liking? Because the economy is booming and inflation is rising, the Fed will put a stop to that. Or because inflation is low, and margins are squeezed. Or because personal investors, who stampeded into mutual funds when returns on savings accounts were low, will now want to switch back. Or because institutional investors, still nursing debts of nearly \$200 billion to support their bond holdings, will be forced to liquidate — continuing 1994's story.

None of these scenarios is wholly implausible, and a crash would be nerve-racking everywhere. Mexico is already in crisis because American lost interest; and since the US is currently the great exporter of (borrowed) capital, all other emerging markets are under the same threat. The London market would fall in sympathy.

There would be a severe blow to confidence in Tokyo — if you can give such a name to successful official price rigging, known in the inimitable Japanese jargon as the Price Keeping Operation, or PKO for short. Even the Post Office Fund, the main agent of the PKO, might be overwhelmed by a stampede. The City is right, then, to be wary; but frightened is another matter.

To start with the most plausible worry: is the US economy overheating? There is no question that it is strong; and while corporate leaders expect a slowdown in 1995, few of them seem to think that this will affect their own business. This could be a sinister pattern. I encountered it myself in 1987, at a meeting of American business economists. A huge majority of them expected a recession, and some believed it was already started; but they were bullish about the prospects for their own employers. It

turned out that they knew more about their own companies but wrong about the economy, which went on growing. All the same, the stock market crashed only six weeks later.

History does not repeat itself, though. The economic circumstances may look like 1987, but the market situation is different. That of 1987 was a correction at the end of a tremendous bull run; but Wall Street has been drifting sideways for more than a year this time. The speculative buying that ends in tears is lacking in Wall Street this time — though not, be warned, in those emerging markets that have not already gone over the edge. The mutual funds could be a source of weakness, but this would be almost a first time: small investors have stronger nerves than the professionals. Maybe this time will be different, because the rush into the mutuals was on an unprecedented scale; but I would still bet against it. Will the Fed be the party pooper? History again says "no".

Policy was tightened unusually this time, and has checked monetary base growth. Fed tightening usually stops well before an actual recession. Some of the indicators that suggest a further squeeze are lagging ones: high durable goods sales are the natural echo of the high house sales of last year. Input price increases have been sharp, but mainly because so many prices were previously so depressed. And mortgage rates, which depress spending, will go on rising for up to two years even if there is no further rise in Fed-run market rates. Alan Greenspan will be better aware of this than his critics.

The profit story is much the same. Slower profit growth is in all the forecasts: that was why we have not had a bull run. And not all profits are squeezed: yes, severely, in retailing, health-care, and other well-known problem areas. But look to steel or chemicals, to name but two, for new highs. Another year of nervous drift, highly probable. But not 1987 all over again.

THE TIMES

Win the trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history

Today is day ten of The Times Millennium 2000, which offers readers the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve 1999 crossing the International Date Line to both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. First prize is a 28 day world air cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in Fiji and the Cook Islands to join in the festivities. The trip takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson, Washington and Sydney. It includes helicopter sightseeing over the Fiji Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, and would cost \$64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

Should you be unsuccessful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brainchild of The Millennium Foundation, a non profit-making charity which is organising fundraising parties to help specific local charities across the world. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage gallery and fund the Kirov Ballet.

You could, for example, celebrate the dawn of the new millennium in New Orleans, a city famous for rhythm and creole cuisine. The party in the renovated Gallier Hall in the French quarter and your stay at the elegant St Louis Hotel would cost £3,250 per person in 1999, but readers can secure their places now for £2,250 each. Commencing December 28, 1999, the cost includes air travel and hotel accommodation and your ticket to the New Year's Eve gala party.

To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which are appearing between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: The Times Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Britons Court, London EC8B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, which appeared last week, will appear again on Saturday. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Most employers do not benefit from final salary schemes

From Mr Stuart Southall
Sir, In your columns today (Business Letters, December 29), Eric Bellene and Hugh Long make similar points on the economics of final salary schemes, but reach different conclusions on Richard Beardshaw's analysis of the CBI survey (Business Letters, December 20).

The vast majority of employers certainly do not benefit from final salary schemes in the manner Mr Bellene claims. Indeed, early retirements have been the single most important factor in reducing "surpluses" in many well publicised cases. A reduction of 4 per cent for each year of early retirement leaves most schemes with no profit and so is entirely equitable to the leaver. Many schemes do better, either as of right or on a discretionary basis.

As Mr Long suggests, an employer's true contribution to a final salary scheme is age-related: typically similar to the member's (of 5%) at age 30 but 2 to 3 times the employee's contribution at ages over 50. The

same pension costs more for a 50-year-old than a 30-year-old, irrespective of how it is provided. Employers are aware of this economic truism. A wish to limit these higher future costs, should not be confused as an ungenerous treatment of rights already earned. These usually represent fair value and are often enhanced in final salary schemes.

Yours faithfully,
STUART M. SOUTHALL,
Punter Southall & Co,
Consulting Actuaries,
126 Jermyn Street, SW1.

Nadir and legal impartiality

From Resat Caglar
Sir, Mr C. J. Barlow, joint administrator, Polly Peck International, claims in your issue of December 20 (letter, "Northern Cyprus, Nadir and the law") that "the smooth running of the administration has been consistently impeded by Mr Nadir who has bought well over 30 legal actions in various jurisdictions to hinder the administrators and directors of Polly Peck subsidiaries in carrying out their legal duties".

I do hope that the words "has bought" above is a misprint for "has brought" and is not a deliberate attempt to give the impression that the judiciary at the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey lack impartiality, which is not true.

I did wonder, though, how many such letters were sent out, and how many recipients received a personal acknowledgement.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE R. BRADFORD,
49 Lyonsdown Avenue,
New Barnet,
Herts.

Searching for too many answers

From Mrs Anne R. Bradford
Sir, Mr Belsey's cautionary letter, re will-drafting reminds me that, some years ago, I received a letter purporting to come from a graduate of the University of California, who had been given my name and address as one who might be willing to help in research he was conducting in the UK. He hoped I would be willing to

complete a four-page (A4) questionnaire he was sending and return it to him in the s.a.e. he supplied, which was c/o a post box number at a Central London PO.

Among questions asked were type and size of accommodation; number of occupants; were we conscious of noise from neighbouring properties (and presumably, conversely); had we travelled; hobbies; did we attend evening classes; how many nights a week we went out, etc. I



ACCOUNTANCY

UK leads the field in policing company internal controls

Paul Rutteman points out that American methods lag behind the reinvented Cadbury Code

The guidance issued to directors of listed companies on how to comply with the Cadbury Code's requirements on internal control appears unremarkable until you compare it with its US or Canadian counterparts. You then begin to realise that, in this particularly sensitive area, the self-regulatory United Kingdom accounting profession appears to be moving faster and going further than its more legalistic and regulatory American and continental cousins. The Cadbury Code is very much alive and is kicking again.

When it started in late 1992

the UK working group had the benefit of the 300-plus page "Internal control-integrated framework", published in the US in 1992 by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), after a five-year study involving hundreds of individuals, including corporate executives, legislators, regulators, consultants, auditors and academics. As it completed its work, which is more than 300 pages long, the group received an exposure draft issued by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) which is rather shorter, at 23 pages. In Australia, a parallel project is under way but initiatives in continental Europe seem to be still at the discussion stage.

Although the three pub-

lished documents follow the framework established in the COSO document, the American and Canadian documents illustrate a much more tentative approach to the problems of internal control reporting than that about to be implemented in the UK.

Most importantly, all UK companies will be expected to report on the effectiveness of their internal financial control. In the US some will and in Canada a few will. This is because the proposals of the Treadway Commission and CICA are not nearly so authoritative for the business community as the code of best practice issued by the Cadbury Committee. The COSO document, while noting that the commission advocates publishing a report on effectiveness, does not present its

The specific requirement to identify major risks is crucially important

follow-up suggestions as requirements for compliance but only as a toolkit for management on how they might report. The Canadians have not dealt with the issue of public reporting at all but perhaps recognising a future struggle, defer it to a "list of future priorities".

Although it allows management to report for a period, the COSO document favours reporting as at a particular moment. Like an MOT certificate, such a report will presumably coincide with the completion of a review which has corrected any serious



Paul Rutteman believes the code is alive and kicking

weaknesses found. The obligation to report and account for such weaknesses or any material effect they may have had on the shareholders' interest is therefore considerably less than under the UK guidance, which requires a report covering the complete accounting period.

The US approach is no doubt pragmatic but ignores the accountability normally associated with stewardship. The UK definition of "inter-

national financial control" covers, but the COSO definition does not cover, the reliability of management's own internal accounting system or compliance with internal policies.

The importance of the working group attaches to covering management's internal information procedures is illustrated by recent corporate failures where boards appear to have missed warnings that should have been apparent from any well run management information system. Neither the US nor the Canadian guidance yet requires auditors to report on the directors' statement. While the Cadbury Code clearly expects such a report, it will be interesting to see how far the Auditing Practices Board will commit the auditing profession to reporting to shareholders on the directors' statement.

Despite a more litigious environment, many American boards already appear to believe that the potential benefits of making a positive statement on internal control outweigh the costs. The COSO document notes that in 1992 nearly 60 per cent of the top 500 (Fortune 500) United States companies included a management report on some aspects of internal control in their financial statements. Over all companies the ratio was about one in four. Recent research by one of the large accounting firms suggests that in 1993, 80 of the top 100 (Fortune 100) made such reports and that nearly half of those make some reference to effectiveness.

The Canadian experience is different and it is clear that CICA's guidance on public reporting will be presented as a second bite only once the framework is accepted.

The success of the UK guidance depends very much on the success of the Cadbury Code itself but investors in UK listed companies should meanwhile be pleased to note that Cadbury's original message stands and that this guidance gives it practical effect.

"All directors... whether or not they have executive responsibilities, have a monitoring role and are responsible for ensuring that the necessary controls over the activities of their companies are in place and working."

Paul Rutteman is a partner with Ernst & Young and chairman of the working group on internal control.

Going the extra mile on Cadbury

AS FROM the beginning of this year company directors at last have to add internal control to the issues they cover in financial reporting to shareholders and the outside world. It has been a long haul to create rules that were both acceptable to finance directors and effective on behalf of shareholders. And it has not been an easy one.

It is hard at this distance to decide whether the Cadbury committee on financial aspects of corporate governance thought internal controls a simple task, or a poisoned chalice. But the committee must have been alarmed at the extraordinary opposition from company directors to what had seemed a simple concept. Rules for reporting on the effectiveness of a company's internal controls had, like the rules on a company's "going concern" status, been left by the committee for working parties from the accountancy profession to sort out. And in October 1993 we saw the first draft of rules. Peter Davis, who these days oversees the National Lottery, was on that working party. "I don't see there is any justification for a finance director to be angry about this document," he said at its launch. He was right. There was no justification.

But that did not stop a tide of fury crashing over the working party's efforts. Unlike the draft rules themselves, there was little of substance in the fury. Most finance directors could only say that, at 70 pages, the draft was far too long for themselves and their fellow board members to cope with, and the additional disclosure would cost too much. What they could not state was the real reason for their fury. If the rules went through unchanged, then they were going to have to report on how effective the company's internal controls were. In times of back-firing derivatives and uncertain trading conditions that could be very embarrassing indeed. As one senior member of the profession put it recently: "Disclosure is not a cost issue, it is a sticking-your-neck-out issue."

So at the end of last summer the working party produced a seven-page draft. The main issues were still addressed, though tactfully reworded, but the draft arguments over length were dismissed. And now, after yet another exposure period, we have the guidance in place and affecting accounting periods beginning on or after this January 1. The extraordinary thing is the nature of the responses which the working party received through last autumn. The 100 group of finance directors actually argued that the January 1 deadline was too close for finance directors to cope with. This, despite the fact that any finance director worth his or her salt would have been aware of the scope of the guidelines since October 1993. It makes you wonder how long it takes them to cope with more urgent issues, like declining revenues or a fall in the dollar.

More than half of the responses were unhappy about the "encouragement" that the 1994 draft urged for directors to state how effective the internal control systems were, as well as just saying they existed, which, after all, is no great corporate secret. This astonished the working party. Paul Rutteman, the Ernst & Young partner who headed it, was expecting disagreements over technical aspects. "But it was quite extraordinary," he said, "how the removal of the idea of encouragement became the key issue". In the end Sir Adrian Cadbury suggested some wording to placate both sides.

So the new rules, after describing how directors should state that they are responsible for internal control and that they have reviewed its effectiveness, carry a crucial line. "Directors may also wish to state their opinion on the effectiveness of the system of internal control," it reads. The forward to the guidance then says that "such statements will be helpful as a means of working towards full implementation of this section of the [Cadbury] Code". In other words, any company that does not go the extra mile in fulfilling its responsibilities to shareholders will be judged accordingly.

But the problem is that managements and auditors are scared stiff. For example, how many companies have discovered they have lost a fortune overnight because they had ineffective systems for dealing with derivatives. The now familiar bleat of "we thought we understood the products but..." is incompatible with a statement to shareholders that the company has systems in place to guard against such eventualities. Before it lost its shirt, Kidder Peabody had no risk management group. But it didn't have to tell shareholders that. In the end the markets will insist that directors face up to their responsibilities over internal control.



ROBERT BRUCE

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Oh dear, another huge dollop of auditing whitewash

Austin Mitchell says The Audit Agenda points safely to the past

After such triumphs as BCCI, Maxwell, Polly Peck, and other disasters, those of us with a naive belief in the public interest have assumed that the auditing industry would engage in a little serious self-reflection. Or even develop an Audit Consumer's Charter. Sadly it has apparently been too dispirited by its campaign to get legal protection from the consequences of its own failures. So there has been no attempt to learn lessons. No attempt to put its house in order. Indeed, all we have is a rather huge dollop of whitewash in the form of the Audit Agenda.

The Audit Practices Board's pointer to new directions for audit points safely back to the past. The report makes no attempt to learn from audit failures, though it does offer a galaxy of new money-making ideas for the industry. Chairman's Report, internal controls, new governance work, all sorts of sales opportunities with a chance of extra profits for work which should be done anyway.

It even demands more rights for auditors, though remaining totally silent on the industry's failure to provide "value for money", or any duty of care. Apparently it would be inhibiting to make auditors accountable in any way at all. Audit failures occur mainly because of inadequate work. The auditors haven't done their job properly because of poor training, education by rote, lack of supervision, knowledge failures, conflicts of interest, lack of discipline, or the unreasonable pressures which result from cut-price

audits used to get a foot in the door to sell other services.

These must lead to corner cutting, excessive strain, using untrained staff or shoddy workmanship. Yet none of this is recognised by the APB. Its paper is based upon the self-interest of a selected few — the big firms. Rather than recognising the systematic nature of audit failures, the APB tries to avert the issues. It deflects attention by painting failures as the result of individual incompetence.

An example is its suggestion that audit reports be signed by partners. What improvement will this bring in the quality of audits? The firms are appointed to conduct the audits. They certainly rake in the fees. They profit from the services they sell on the back of audits. So

the firm has the final responsibility for all aspects of the audit. Signatures on the audit report can't absolve them from what is essentially the failure of a firm, its standards, its corporate controls.

Rather than the trenchant inquiry into audit, its strengths and weaknesses which we need, the Audit Agenda is a smokescreen. It is emitted on behalf of the big firms by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW), which they dominate. Partners from major firms were consulted. Joe Public wasn't. Nor were there any discussions with representatives of bank depositors, pension scheme members, employees, or any of the stakeholders routinely hit by audit failures. There was no critical scrutiny of the status quo. Even the recommendations of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA), both opposed to the selling of non-auditing services to client companies, were ignored.

Academic research has shown that, contrary to the propaganda by the APB, companies can get non-auditing services cheaper when they purchase audit and non-auditing services from different companies. That evidence was submitted to the APB. It has been ignored because the APB is dominated by the major

firms, and it is hardly going to oppose their money-making schemes. Hence it supports a system which makes audit a market stall from which to sell other services.

There are many kinds of audit. Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Health and Safety Executive and other organisations do audits. In each case the watchdogs are independent of the management. They do not act for the finance, personnel or consultancy arms of their organisations. They are not hired and fired by the client company. The same should apply to financial auditors.

Business people worry about a possible visit from such independent watchdogs. I have yet to meet a director who has the same concerns about a visit from a Big Six audit team.

Audits are required by law. Yet directors have little incentive to get rigorous audits. Indeed, their salaries and bonuses are linked to published profits, so it is hardly surprising that company directors like the auditor to be "flexible". They need the imprimatur of an auditor, but at as low a cost as possible. CIMA and CIPFA are absolutely right when they call for an independent regulator of auditing. That is now the only way to give auditors backbone, a court of appeal, and the backing to do their job well. The failures of auditing are the failures of its institutions, including the APB which is now applying the whitewash. Austin Mitchell, is Labour MP for Great Grimsby



Mitchell: independence

Teeing-off against auditors

STARTLING allegations pop up in his response to the McFarlane report on the future development of auditing by that famed critic of the profession, one Austin Mitchell, MP, who expands his view in the story above. Railing against auditors providing non-audit services, Mitchell says that "auditors provide all kinds of services to companies". And then proceeds to list them. He includes such notables as "printing T-shirts" and "laying golf courses". Presumably the latter is carried out

by the famous firm of Mashie, Niblick & Co.

The Clots

NOW that the Institute of Taxation has become the Chartered Institute of Taxation, people are wondering what initials they should apply to it. Charters always provide problems. The certified accountants celebrated their charter by referring to themselves as CACA before realising that some overseas countries found that somewhat unpleasant. Now

people are wondering if the IOT is going to be known as the ClOT. The problem, as one venerable member explained, was that it looks like the word clot.

Strong smoker

WITH the departure of veteran public relations stalwart, Margaret Strong, from the English ICA, a smokescreen has cleared. She is a heavy smoker, and the institute tightened its no smoking policy with the closure of its smoking room last October.

Margaret, like so many in the City, had to resort to standing on the doorstep for a crafty drag. This creates problems. What we need is a competition for the finest polished brass ashtray affixed to City office entrances.

ONE unrepentant recent recruit to a large accounting firm found himself both arriving rather late to the office and also sharing the lift with the senior partner. With disdain, the senior partner looked at him. "Late again," he boomed. But the new recruit matched him. "Me too," he replied.

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Modest losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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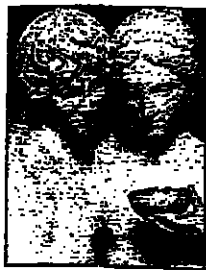
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VISUAL ART page 34

One of the greatest sculptors? Thorvaldsen reassessed on the 150th anniversary of his death

ARTS

THEATRE page 35

Shakespeare's *Tempest* becomes a Romanian lamentation for a famous old theatre



CINEMA: In a crowded week, Geoff Brown applauds the wit and wisdom of Hal Hartley's *Amateur*

Elegantly turning prose

Having spent the past few weeks plumbing, British cinema suddenly wake up to tell us with new releases. All human, and inhuman, life is here. In New York, a former nun with a nymphomaniac's itch becomes entangled with an amnesiac pornographer. Up in Edinburgh, a smart Georgian terrace resounds with the sounds of death and dismemberment. Meanwhile, an American girl blessed with outsize thumbs enjoys a counter-cultural odyssey with a band of rebellious cowgirls. In other cinemas, Jean-Claude van Damme's time-travelling cop darts across the century dispensing biffs with dull repartee ("That's gonna hurt!"); while Kurt Russell and James Spader step through a

circle and arrive on a planet ruled by a hermaphrodite who swans round the galaxy in a flying black pyramid.

All this plus Freddy Krueger, the grinning fiend of the *Elm Street* movies, back from the dead with a tongue that extends like a garden hose to lash round his victim's face. Welcome to 1995.

Hal Hartley's *Amateur*, the tale of the nun and the amnesiac pornographer, bestrides the heap through the elegance of its words and images, and the intimation of new developments for a director who appeared, in *Simple Men*, to be stuck in a rut of his own mannerisms.

Not that much has changed radically. He is still concerned with the muddle of desires, ambitions and self-doubts that make up relationships. His lead actor, Martin Donovan, still behaves like a walking timebomb. The dialogue proceeds in the familiar circles, slashed with philosophical asides, while jagged editing gives scenes a powerful edge that recalls early Godard.

But this time Hartley's patented style comes entwined with strong plot material. Set in New York, *Amateur* is a thriller of sorts with copious violence, hitmen and incriminating floppy disks: an action thriller, in the director's words, "with one flat tyre". But Hartley's tongue-in-cheek genre variations do not preclude genuine suspense, or tender feelings. As the plot lurches towards its climax, and Donovan faces his past as a porn film pedlar and nasty crook, the main characters — amateurs both in their uncertain grip on life — become more than conveyers of droll remarks. You actually start to care for their fate.

Casting reinforces the feeling that Hartley is beginning to break out. Donovan and the soulful Elina Lowensohn (the porn actress wife who wants him dead) may be familiar Hartley faces; but Isabelle Huppert, as the former nun



There are a million stories in the naked city — *Amateur* tells the violent tale of an amnesiac pornographer, as played by Martin Donovan (left)

first encountered in a coffee shop writing a pornographic novel on a laptop computer, brings a gust of fresh Gallic air, and fills out her offbeat character with a battery of hesitant faraway looks.

Amateur lives by its kinks and contradictions. It presents women as sex objects, but then punctures the presentation. An action film cliché is offered for real, only to disintegrate into jest. The rug is always pulled from under our feet. So be alert, be stimulated, and entertained.

Most people roam DIY superstores looking for door chimes or draught excluders. Not so the trio in *Shallow Grave*, a rousing black comedy-thriller from Scotland, and the cinema debut of Danny Boyle, television director of *Mr Wroe's Virgins*. These three seek tools to help to dismember and bury their new flatmate, who arrived one day and died accidentally the next, sprawled naked on a red bed near a suitcase bursting with money.

After pocketing their findings and disposing of the body, the friends — one nonchalant nurse, one docile accountant, one cheeky journalist — fall prey to the rivalries and greed of most movie wrongdoers. But if John Hodge's script breaks no new ground, the sharp tone and inventive detail keep the film fresh.

At first, as Brian Tufano's camera yanks us at high speed through Edinburgh's New Town, we fear for a visual pummeling. But once the plot settles down inside the flat, Boyle expends his energy to much better effect. He coaxes excellent performances from Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor, and relishes the high drama when Eccleston's accountant decamps to the attic, punches peepholes in the floor, and wraps himself in paranoia.

With its budget of £1 million, the terse and tart *Shallow Grave* represents excellent value for money. Hollywood's *Stargate* spent about 45 times

more on its inter-galactic special effects, mock-Egyptian headgear, and piquant American dialogue ("Say goodbye to King Tut, asshole"). You may shake your heads at the financial extravagance and the script's collection of stolen goods. But you would have to be dead not to enjoy this preposterous romp through space, time, and old movies.

Hip Egyptologist James Spader and bullet-headed colonel Kurt Russell lead the group who walk through a strange circular portal and tumble through the galaxy to land among downtrodden slaves from a Cecil B. De Mille film, a bison-like remnant of the *Star Wars* trilogy, and a hermaphrodite dictator called Ra (Jaye Davidson, from *The Crying Game*). Throw in a romance, some military hardware, an uprising and a flying black pyramid, and you have a feast of Hollywood nonsense.

Stargate shines all the more brightly next to *Timecop*, the week's other time-travelling fantasy. The tortuous script,

stuffed with baffling time jumps and needless subplots, is bad enough. Add to this a wearisome deluge of violence and a leading man, Jean-Claude van Damme, with all the charm of a forklift truck. *Timecop*, directed and photographed by Peter Hyams from a comic book series, shows Hollywood's machine at its least attractive.

Life is not always better outside the system. Following *My Own Private Idaho*, independent film-maker Gus van Sant takes a nasty tumble with *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. His talent remains; the trouble lies rather with the anarchic Tom Robbins book he struggles to pin down on celluloid. It cannot be done, no matter how many direct quotes are woven into the author's narrative, added to give spurious shape to a film of fragments, wasted cameo appearances and striking images in search of a good home.

Uma Thurman is Sissy Hanksaw, Robbins's counter-culture heroine, who teams

up with River Phoenix's sister Rain (no great actress, yet) and other renegade cowgirls on a health farm run by John Hurt's transsexual Countess. Peyote is enjoyed. A mystic sits in the mountains nearby. Messages are written on stones: "Be your own flying saucer — rescue yourself."

If the film had been made as an experimental fling when the book appeared in 1976, it might have captured more of the author's zany free spirit. Almost 20 years later, *Cowgirls* arrives stillborn, too cautious and literal to have any cinematic life.

No space to do justice to Wes Craven's *New Nightmare*, an imaginative response to the problem of resuscitating a monster decisively killed off in the last *Elm Street* sequel, *Freddy's Dead*. Returning to the series for the first time since the original 1984 movie, Craven supplies in-jokes galore, clever games with artifice and reality, and enough grisly shocks to keep genre fans happy.

The set by Sainkho Namchylak, a singer from Tuva on Russia's Mongolian border, was a mesmerising display of vocal virtuosity. Its highlight was a passage of her speciality: overtone singing, in which she produces an eerie, high vibration simultaneously with more conventional folk-based keening.

CHRIS PARKER

Amateur
Lumiere, 15, 105 mins
Hal Hartley's quirky romantic thriller

Shallow Grave
MGM Haymarket
18, 93 mins
Tart black comedy

Stargate
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 121 mins
Enjoyably preposterous galactic fantasy

Timecop
Plaza, 18, 98 mins
Tedious time-travelling thriller with Jean-Claude Van Damme

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues
Metro, 15, 96 mins
Cult director Gus van Sant takes a tumble

Wes Craven's New Nightmare
Odeon West End
15, 112 mins
Inventive riff on the *Elm Street* horror movies

RADIO: Gazing into the future, Peter Barnard says the BBC has nothing to fear but fear itself

In the last book he wrote, *Personal Perspectives*, the late Brian Redhead said: "There is only now. The past is what we can remember now of what went before. The future is what we can speculate now about what may happen next. But the only reality is the present."

From a man who spent so much of his life working at the BBC, this is a remarkably existentialist standpoint. For the BBC, perhaps more than any other institution, sometimes appears to have an unhealthy obsession with its own future. Like an embattled prime minister lurching from one

Cheer up, aged Auntie

crisis to the next (I choose the analogy purely at random) the BBC gives the impression that an army of worker ants slaves night and day to build dams against those who would assault its blessed Charter. I feel the urge to stand outside Broadcasting House and shout "Relax!"

The temptation to greet each new year as if it heralds some defining moment in the history of whatever is under discussion — the Royal Fam-

ily, Test cricket, BBC Radio — is great and should be resisted. But there are matters that should be exercising the broadcasters this year, even if they are neither urgent nor life-threatening.

After all, radio is in superb condition: audiences are growing, choice is widening and in many parts of the country local radio has all but replaced local democracy. The BBC's new Charter is in the bag, a second lobbying triumph in a decade that began with the corporation facing an "unprecedented threat", as the lurid phrase had it, from the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

It turned out that this crazy document ravaged the better parts of commercial broadcasting but left the BBC virtually unscathed, the reason being that politicians sent to tame the BBC invariably go native, as we saw with David Mellor during his brief shining moment as Heritage Secretary. It cannot be the indifference of quality of BBC lunches, it must be something in the air.

I think that the something is quality, for no matter how diligently the BBC's critics search, they never quite seem able to find anything better elsewhere. Commercial radio trumpets its quantitative success, but in quality terms the BBC is more or less peerless.

Not that BBC Radio, midwife to *Anderson Country* and *The Jamesons*, gets it all right all the time. Heavens no. But the commercial sector has had long enough by now to demonstrate via its programming that Auntie is too fat, too old, too reactionary. But where is commercial radio's *Today* programme? Where is its drama output? Where is its riposte to



Matthew Bannister (top) and Nicholas Kenyon must stick to their guns

the criticism that the BBC uses money to make programmes and the commercial sector uses programmes to make money?

The BBC is, of course, assisted by £1 billion each year from the licence fee, which makes the arrogance towards listeners of some of its executives all the more infuriating. But the 1990 Act, removing from commercial companies even the semblance of a requirement to serve the public interest, has left the BBC as

the only repository of programming that consistently exercises the mind.

So what I hope we shall see in 1995 is BBC Radio reinforcing its commitment to excellence. This makes for hard choices: Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC Radio, believes in the BBC as a broad church, even though empty pews are the distinguishing mark of that other broad church, the C of E.

Hence the calamitous fall of Radio 1's audience (three million gone and counting) is seen within the BBC as a "re-positioning challenge" to the network and its youthful Controller, Matthew Bannister, rather than a message that pop music is not a market in which the BBC needs to be.

Trouble is, the BBC is besotted with research, and research shows that, for the first time, the total BBC audience share has fallen below 50 per cent. Given the plethora of commercial stations, that was bound to happen. Nobody in the BBC is surprised by this, but everyone in the BBC is alleged to be "fighting back".

Why? Why fight Branson's Virgin? Why, in another music market, worry about Classic FM? Nicholas Kenyon, the Controller of Radio 3, is prone to displays of loffy indifference towards the threat and one can only hope he means them.

There is at present a compact disc of popular TV classics, music used in commercials. On the label is listed Beethoven's "Für Elise" and then, in brackets: "Uncle Ben's Rice".

The two may be the same thing, but they are not the Same Thing. I hope that the BBC, in music, speech and drama, knows the difference between them and will this year reassure us as to which market it is in. But not both.

ARTS BRIEFING

Friel returns

LOOK for a West End run next October of Brian Friel's *Translations*, the beautiful play with which the Irish dramatist co-founded his Field Day company with the actor Stephen Rea in 1980. Producer Noel Pearson is preparing a major Broadway revival of the play to open in March, directed by Howard Davies and starring Brian Dennehy, Rufus Sewell and Tony Goldwyn. The plan then is to transport that staging to Ireland for a four-to-six-week run, and on to the West End for 14 weeks. The news will no doubt please admirers of *Translations* who were disappointed that its last London outing, at the Donmar Warehouse two summers ago (directed by Sam Mendes), did not get a West End transfer.

IN 1996, not quite in time for the centenary of cinema, the University of Exeter plans to unveil the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture. Together with his companion Peter Jewell, the director of *My Childhood* and *My Way Home* amassed an awesome collection of early optical devices, posters, movie merchandise, and 25,000 cinema history books before his death from cancer in 1991. Thanks to Jewell's donation, the books alone should ensure that Exeter has the largest university cinema collection in the country. Douglas, who cunningly wove pre-cinema devices into his film on the Tolpuddle Martyrs, *Comrades*, was born in Scotland but lived in Devon for much of his life.

A film by Gus Van Sant
the director of *My Own Private Idaho*

uma thurman keanu reeves
rain phoenix angie dickinson
roseanne arnold sean young
lorraine bracco john hurt

Even Cowgirls get the Blues

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Britten is worth a detour

Sorrel Quartet
Wigmore Hall

SURELY there was no call on the Kirckman Concert Society to apologise, as it did on the programme-sheet, for a late change of programme that brought in Britten in place of Borodin? Young string quartets formed of British players have an obligation to make us acquainted with their views on what the composer achieved in this form. To hear so committed an account of the third and last of Britten's quartets was a privilege as well as a pleasure.

The all-female Sorrel Quartet, who first came together at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester in 1987 and were appointed quartet-in-residence at Liverpool University 18 months ago, is an ensemble of increasing distinction. So far as Britten was concerned, the players were by no means reticent in giving breadth of character to the last major work he finished before his death in 1976.

A summation of so many aspects of Britten's creative artistry, it drew from the Sorrel players a rewarding intensity of enthusiasm in each of its five movements. Particularly impressive were the weaving of lines in the intense opening movement, the forceful spirit of the two scherzos, and the grave luminosity of the finale.

Prior to this the players laid claim to separate instrumental identities in Haydn and Mozart. The former's E flat Quartet, Op 20 No 1, gained as much from the cellist's total body weight as from the clarity of parts between the others. With Mozart's "Dissonance" Quartet in C, K465, the irregular harmonies of the introduction were vividly balanced by the no less daring excursions in the last movement. In between, the almost continuous permutation of four notes during the Andante was made to sound wonderfully rich, and the overall vivacity of the playing was that of a quartet for whom music is an adventure to be relished.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE: Taciturn thespians; Flann O'Brien staged; and one Romanian's Shakespeare



Ghostly presence: the central, non-speaking protagonist of *The Woman in Black* regularly spooks audiences who believe that they are watching a play for two male actors

They are the ones who get overlooked when awards are dished out: the silent onlookers within a play, those fleeting or spectral presences without whom the play literally could not take place. By this, I don't mean parts that are underwritten — the daughter, say, in John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, who is merely a foil for her father's rage; or the queuing stepson in Peter Shaffer's *Gift of the Gorgon*, who sits violently scribbling as his stepmother relates the gruesome story of his father's death.

The roles under discussion here are those intended to be mute, or as near as, of which the West End has had much evidence of late. Last summer's revival of the David Storey play *Home* was nominally a four-hander, but the starry quartet of actors was in fact amplified by Jason Pitt's some-stealing moment or two as a silent employee of the home whose job consisted

mainly of rearranging chairs. Admirers of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* will recall that a putative three-hander actually has a fourth actor: the waiter in Scene VII, whose brief comments ("E spina!" and the like) can be quite drill in the right hands.

Current examples of this phenomenon include a long-running West End mainstay, *The Woman in Black*, whose title character is in fact an on-stage presence, and Edward Albee's award-winning *Three Tall Women*, whose trio of brilliant actresses is, in Act II, augmented by John Ireland's young man, a character billed simply as The Boy.

What do these roles require? More than one might imagine, especially — in Ireland's case — when one is clearly acting a version of the playwright as a

Speechless, perhaps; unsung, no. Matt Wolf asks the silent stars of the West End stage to take a bow

young man. Even getting the role, Ireland recalls, was less straightforward than one would assume.

"For what's on paper, it was quite an intensive audition," Ireland says, from his dressing room at Wyndham's. He appeared twice before various members of the creative team, and even read a speech from *Othello*, which is odd when one considers that he has nothing to say on stage. "It was a very intensive process for something that in the end result has not really attracted that much attention, although my presence on-stage facili-

tates a lot of very, very powerful responses."

Indeed it does, and one can imagine Albee not allowing just anyone to play the part. Appearing by his dying mother's bedside near the end of the play, The Boy is an idealised version — "23 or so", according to the script — of an adult who would go on to be despised by his mother.

"Edward [Albee] focused me on the duality of The Boy: how much he loves his mother, how much he hates her. Part of The Boy wants to get on the bed and hug her: another part wants to slap her."

Such assignments could seem a dead end, but Ireland thought otherwise. He was eager, at the age of 27, to make his London debut in such distinguished company after a career spent working mostly in the North of England and Scotland. "I was thinking at first, 'I've got more to offer than this', but The Boy does have three very strong moments where you know the audience are going to have to look at him despite the fact that you have three of the most talented actresses in Great Britain on stage at the same time. I thought it was worth it."

For Tricia Morrish in *The Woman in Black*, the appeal was mostly pragmatic. "I wanted to do it because I needed the time," says Morrish, who was looking for

something to earn her a weekly wage while she pursued an English degree at Goldsmiths' College. Now in the second year of a three-year course, Morrish has been in *The Woman in Black* for seven months, flitting on and off the Fortune stage "in various hoods and bonnets" and spooking audiences who think they are coming in to see the male two-hander that has been advertised.

"For such a small part, you do get a good response," says Morrish, who first saw the thriller at one of its previous addresses, the Strand, when she was acting next door at the Aldwych in *The Sneezes*. The result, she says, is steady work without "having too much responsibility myself for the play". Will the credit enhance her career? Morrish is not too concerned. "I've been an actress for ten years, and I don't want that to rule my life: I have other dreams."

These roles, meanwhile, must be a producer's dream, since they allow actors to be ill with laryngitis or whatever, and still show up — as long as they can move. "In the third or fourth week, I had a really wretched cold," laughs Ireland, "but with this role, who's to know?"

Brave, but not novel

At Swim-Two-Birds
BAC Studio 2

FLANN O'Brien's uniquely funny but quite unstageable novel came out in 1939 and was a post-modernist work decades before the term was introduced. His narrator is an unnamed Dublin student writing a novel about a novelist called Trellis whose characters, while he sleeps, plot against him, wake him up, put him on trial and execute him.

Previously, only Pirandello had thought of doing this sort of thing, but O'Brien goes one better by deconstructing his book as he goes along, interrupting the story to name the grammatical terms he is fond of using, inserting a synopsis now and then for the benefit of new readers, and hauling into the text chunks from books by other authors.

It is a fizzing work with three beginnings, three conclusions and a bewildering number of middles. I love the book and grieve for the absence, in this staging by Ridiculousus, of the subtle deployment of language that makes the novel such fun.

So what do Ridiculousus give us? All four members of the company helped to devise the production, and since all four are also named as directors the result could have been total chaos. What we have instead is energetic confusion. Characterisation is bold, rough-edged and sometimes frankly token.

Jon Darke, whose features lend themselves to expressions of gloom, plays the uncle in much the same way as he plays the doomed Trellis, but the one has inspired the other and his interpretation catches the sober notes of the pair of them.

Angus Barr and David Woods go for anarchy. The moments when they tumble into the audience, push themselves between the rows and are dragged across us by their long Celtic hair, bring a refreshing sense of danger. Offsetting these japes, however, are the overlong Western parodies that never lose their air of student fantasy.

Helen Trew, describing herself in the deconstructing finale as "the token girl", manages an unearthly cackle for the Poika-devil but fails to convince in the numerous male roles she is required to play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Let's hear it for the silent minority

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Farewell to another stage

Kate Bassett on a bold new production of *The Tempest* in a dilapidated

Portuguese theatre

In 1995, if all goes to plan, the Romanian director Silviu Purcariu will stage *The Tempest* at the Nottingham Playhouse. When Eastern Europe first opened up, Purcariu's *King Ubu With Scenes From Macbeth* won a Critics' Award at Edinburgh. Since then, his work has taken off internationally.

He has just staged *The Tempest* at the National Theatre in Oporto with Portuguese-speaking actors. This *Tempest*, a bold vision of Shakespeare's "farewell to the stage" cunningly designed by Jose Manuel Melo, is intimately bound to the space where it has come into being. Besides being a Romanian-Portuguese meditation on how civilisation rubs shoulders with the primitive, and on rebirth versus the decay of age, this is Purcariu's personal celebration of — and lament for — the Teatro S. Joao.

On the crest of a hill above a sea of alleys, Teatro S. Joao houses an exquisite auditorium of dilapidated elegance: an auditorium Purcariu loves and which, with the new year, goes dark for redecoration, for better or worse.

Prospero's fantastical island is a barren sweep of grey sand finishing in a vast dim sky. Or maybe it is the vision of a drowning man. The wrecked couriers, suddenly old with suffering, "come ashore" with their hair on end like distraught madmen or cadavers sinking to the ocean bed. Ariel, refracted into 15 actors, is a phalanx of white heads, mouthing words in a whisper that sends shivers up the spine.

But the island is also inextricably linked to the theatre itself. Liana is shreds of antique red velvet. Characters



A showdown turns into a champagne party in Silviu Purcariu's striking staging of *The Tempest* in Oporto

surface from the pit. When Prospero's spirits haunt those who have wronged him, lights flicker in the boxes by the stage, like theatre ghosts or memories troubling guilty minds.

Prospero himself (richly emotional Ruy de Carvalho) is an actor-director growing old, stagemanaging sterile masques for Miranda's betrothal and preparing himself, before staring into a mirror encircled with bulbs, for the final showdown with his usurper-brother.

At the end the couriers — casting off decrepitude appear in white like Edwardians risen from the grave, as good as new. In fact, the showdown turns into a champagne party celebrating a new era, as Prospero is Duke again and his daughter weds.

However, Purcariu implies a dark future. Once spotlessly smartened up — perhaps like S. Joao — Miranda, previously warmly human, becomes stiff and lifeless. The festive mood is chilly. Moreover, Prospero's powers have been failing. As, to his despair, Ariel prepares to leave him, the gigantic chandelier floating above — an image of his artistic creativity and intellect — sinks down,

sumably a symbol of conquered yet lingering potency or bestiality, is a sorry affair. Its roar sounds alarmingly like a motorbike letting out a dying burp. But this apart, the sound score, weaving Mozart with the screech of birds and deep-tolling bells, is transcendently eerie.

Caliban is embarrassing. Starting out like a chimp Chippendale in a nappy, he progresses into dressing up in his dead mummy's frock. The comic sub-plot, strongly indebted to clowning, falls slightly flat, with Trinculo trundling around in floppy-foot shoes.

Yet, inspirational flashes include the sozzled Stephano making his entrance and instantly falling into the front row or squirming around with Trinculo and Caliban inside one of Prospero's glass cases, plotting to creep up on the master but visibly as drunk as lords. Far beyond this, though, the trenchant power of the piece lies in its vision of the wasteland of depression and grief.

BEARING GREEK GIFTS

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GIVE YOUR FAMILY A LIFETIME OF PLEASURE, BUY A NEW PIANO

Anne McElvoy tracks the sorry history of Soviet manipulation of gullible Western intellectuals

Voices of their master

The only surprising thing about the recently revealed machinations involving a *Guardian* journalist who saw himself as a free spirit while being regarded by the KGB as an agent, is that it surprises anyone at all. This sorry saga of the manipulation of Richard Gott's left-wing convictions to enmesh him in intelligence work, the mixture of naivety and arrogance with which he describes his covert meetings with "the chaps" from the Lubyanka — all for the honest aim of promoting better understanding between the systems — can be found time and again in the pages of *Double Lives*, Stephen Koch's excellent history of Soviet propaganda in the West under Stalin.

Gott is of course a mere epigone compared with the targets of Soviet disinformation in its heyday. In 1933, Karl Radek, Stalin's arch-propagandist, trusted with shaping the Kremlin's "antifascist" policy and the master of a global network of agents of communist influence, ordered his British operatives to target — plus ça change — the *Manchester Guardian* as a leading press outlet in the campaign to impose the desired version of the Reichstag fire on the readers.

Through a concoction called the Oberführer memorandum, the SA (Hitler's Brownshirts) were blamed for the blaze which inflamed Nazi terror in Germany. Despite the Communists' claims in the decades to come that they alone had been constant from the start in their opposition to Hitler, the memorandum exculpated Hitler. That suited the Führer, since it gave him the opportunity to purge his rival, Röhm. It also suited the leadership of the KPD (the Communist Party of Germany) which was convinced that the Nazi street thugs were "brown on the outside but red on the inside" and that if they could break the mesmeristic hold of the SA, the brutal energy of the disaffected proletariat could be channelled towards a different revolution.

The subsequent trial of the Bulgarian revolutionary Dimitroff and the hanged van der Lubbe was seen up between the Communists and Nazis in advance, with the result that only the lone, lunatic Dutchman went to the guillotine. Dimitroff was able to provide a stirring defence of his belief, sure of acquittal, Hitler could boast of the

independence of German justice. The result was consolidated on the far Right and the far Left and was a body-blow to democracy.

This cat's cradle of lies, propagated through the Western media and the good offices of writing and unwriting dupes among opinion makers, was a masterpiece of the art of disinformation. But it was only one episode of many which Willi Münzenberg orchestrated.

One of the great unseen powers of the 20th century, Münzenberg, from his base at the head of the Comintern, persuaded an initially sceptical Lenin to win over bourgeois humanists to the Cause, telling him "We must organise the intellectuals." Organise he did, from Bloomsbury to Hollywood, harnessing free spirits to his masters' ends.

Like Bulgakov's sorcerer Voland in *The Master and Margarita* he created a false

DOUBLE LIVES
Stalin, Willi Münzenberg
and the Seduction of the Intellectuals
By Stephen Koch
HarperCollins, £20

running a propaganda network which wooed figures from André Gide to Dorothy Parker. Thomas Mann was one of the few who eventually saw through the smoke and mirrors of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, a key front-organisation for Stalin, and said so, but it took five years of involvement in the organisation for the deception behind it to dawn on him.

Unlike an ordinary spy, Münzenberg was subject to no territorial constraints. His sphere of operation was the world and his vast team of propagandists were at work from the Left Bank in Paris to the killing fields of Spain, persuading concerned humanist consciences that they were working against Hitler's Germany, while the real benefits of their labour, financially and ideologically, were harvested by the other great dictatorship.

Koch, to his credit, has not taken a single rumour for granted. This is an excellent example of both scholarship and detective work, sourced from newly-opened archives in Germany and Russia. He has also conducted a plethora of interviews with the surviving wives, lovers, friends and enemies of Münzenberg's army to trace the work of the Comintern and the even more influential Popular Front.



Willi Münzenberg: an unseen power of the century, he duped idealists from Bloomsbury to Hollywood

Stalin's alliance with the non-Communist Left. His great find is the late Babette Gross, Münzenberg's widow who, having kept a fearful silence since her husband's mysterious death in the woods near Grenoble in 1940 (possibly suicide, more likely another example of the NKVD — the former KGB — devouring its own

children), gave her testament to Koch before her death in 1989. My main caveat about *Double Lives* concerns the writing style, which brims over with solecisms, tautologies and stylistic infelicities (the description of Brecht as "that anti-poet of Weimar's ending" is memorable for its nonsensical awfulness). There are far too many repetitions

which should have been picked up by the editor, and the tone can be embarrassingly breathless and over-dramatic. The accounts of treachery, assassination and ritual purges, even of the most loyal intellectual henchmen, need no such decoration. This tale of how idealists came to be caught in the sorcerer's net is chilling enough told straight.

Free to be slaves

Oliver Letwin

ISAIAH BERLIN
By John Gray
HarperCollins, £18

John Gray aims to draw together into a coherent interpretative whole the hints of a philosophy contained in Sir Isaiah Berlin's many and varied works. Instead of making a tedious attempt to examine each of Berlin's works in turn, he plunges straight in, giving us the "answer", and then supports it with just enough textual reference to make the account plausible. His is a textbook example of philosophical exegesis.

Gray, a noteworthy philosopher in his own right, synthesises Berlin's thought into five propositions.

1. As a matter of objective truth, particular values (moral, political, aesthetic, religious) have validity only within particular "forms of life" (traditions, cultures, societies).

2. There is nothing to guarantee that all the values, even within a given "form of life", will necessarily cohere with one another; there may well be occasions when values conflict, and when they are "incommensurable" in the sense that there are no over-arching principles which can decide the conflict in favour of one value or the other.

3. Still less is there any guarantee that values within differing "forms of life" will cohere with one another; and there are no over-arching principles to resolve conflicts between one form of life and another.

4. Each individual human being, as a participant in (and an inheritor of) the inheritances of a given "form of life", has in theory the potential to mould and remould himself by making the choices which his participation and inheritance open up for him; but liberty (the freedom to make such choices without interference) is merely one potentially valued item alongside others, and may either conflict with other values within a "form of life", or even be regarded within a given form of life as valueless.

5. It is therefore impossible to provide any absolute or universal defence of liberalism: within a liberal society, liberty is valued, but a liberal thinker cannot necessarily expect to find his ideas accepted by members of a society where liberty is valued less than in his own.

These propositions — whether true or false — are vastly important and highly topical. They distinguish between a tolerant, culturally sensitive form of liberalism and classical, universalist, imperialist liberalism.

As Gray points out, the critical difference between the two kinds of liberalism lies in their respective attitudes to "forms of life" which are not themselves liberal. It is no surprise that there should exist such a difference, because liberalism contains within it a question which seems at first sight to be a paradox. What is a person who values the freedom of the individual to say about groups of people — such as ultra-orthodox Jews or highly puritanical Christians — who impose severe constraints upon the freedom of their members? Should a liberal society force such people to allow their children to study texts which they regard as emanations of Satan? Should people, in other words, be forced to be free?

To the universalist liberal, old-fashioned societies and

sects — with their typically oppressive attitudes towards women and their narrow conceptions of the tolerable — constitute a ghastly aberration. He wishes to see them prohibited from constraining their members within the bounds that their religions and cultures impose. The Berlinian, tolerant liberal, on the contrary, recognises such sects and societies as "forms of life" within which freedom of choice is discounted in favour of other values, and accepts each such "form of life" as a legitimate alternative to an open society.

Which of these is the true liberal? The advocate of universal individual freedom, who is willing to ride roughshod over societies and sects that have other priorities? Or the proponent of tolerance, willing to grant legitimacy to "forms of life" within which individual liberties are constrained?

This is a question which any serious and liberally-minded



Berlin: humanely tolerant

person cannot avoid asking, and Gray is undoubtedly right that Berlin, by founding his thought on the assumption of a plurality of not necessarily compatible or commensurable values, gives a powerful answer to the question. Berlin's liberalism, in his recognition of differing histories, traditions and communities, is at once more sophisticated and more humane than the dry abstractions of classical, universalist liberal theory.

Gray leaves one with a number of unanswered questions — in this case, all the more justified since they are questions which Berlin, too, leaves unanswered. If there is genuinely a plurality of sometimes incompatible and incommensurable values, rather than a coherent set of compatible values guaranteed by reason, how are any practical conflicts between values to be resolved either politically or morally? How are conflicts between equivalent values to be distinguished from conflicts between good and evil? How is one society to treat another?

Anyone who reads the book will be left wondering about these things — but to be left in such wonder is a privilege.

Messing about with Marx

Stephen Beller

THE WAGER OF LUCIEN GOLDMANN
Tragedy, Dialectics and a Hidden God
By Mitchell Cohen
Princeton University Press, £26.50

MITCHELL Cohen has written an impressive and frequently witty account of the life and thought of one of the more attractively unconventional figures in the Marxist pantheon. While acknowledging the flaws of his subject, Cohen clearly sees Goldmann as retaining great relevance today, and not only for post-1989 Marxist thinkers.

Goldmann, a Romanian Jew by birth, moved to Paris as soon as he could. There, through various vicissitudes, he established himself as a leading voice on the anti-Stalinist wing of French Marxism. The elaborator of the methodology of "genetic structuralism" — a combination of the dialectics of his great intellectual hero, Georg Lukacs, and the developmental theories of Jean Piaget — Goldmann became an appreciative critic of existentialism, and a staunch opponent of the "anti-humanism" of emergent structuralism.

In intellectual history, Goldmann became famous for his study of Pascal and Racine's relationship to the "hidden God" of Jansenism. In politics Goldmann became well-known as the propagandist for autogestion, workers' self-management, and "market socialism" as the way forward to a true socialist community.

Central to Goldmann's intellectual project was his attempt to save the Marxist

concept of totality from totalitarianism. What Goldmann wanted to do was to pull off the great dialectical trick of preserving the individuality and freedoms of the parts in the whole, while maintaining the whole. He thought he had found the key to this in his attractive and suggestive concept of the "trans-individual subject", the mental structures linking individuals in community.

His "wager", as Cohen calls it, was that such a dialectical solution of the paradox of modern life was still realisable, even though, as Cohen trenchantly points out, Goldmann had half admitted to himself before his death in 1970 that even his own proposals for "authentic community" seemed to provide only a "partial totality", a non sequitur.

At the end of this sweep through a massive chunk of modern Western intellectual history, one is left wondering whether Goldmann could seriously have thought that the dichotomy between absolute values and empirical reality would be resolved by workers' councils in factories. For all his efforts to reinforce Marxism with liberal and humanist values, was it really worth being saved from its totalitarian tendencies? Did it not simply jeopardise Goldmann's own insights and goals?

At the coalface of village life

Walter Ellis

COMING BACK BROCKENS
A Year in a Mining Village
By Mark Hudson
Jonathan Cape, £16.99

THERE is an undeniable romance about pit villages. Yet miners, like the seams they work, are flawed. Consumed by pride, they refused to realise in the early 1980s that their hard-won product was a declining asset.

Mark Hudson, award-winning author, chronicles the life of a mining community in Horden, Co. Durham, where his family worked for several generations. He places it in a history that is since finished and can be recorded without special pleading or rancour.

Hudson was brought up in London but, fascinated by his great grandfather, a mining working-class Conservative, he took a train north to Horden and immersed him-

self in its life. He even made an arduous, Orwellian visit to the coalface of nearby Easington Colliery, some seven miles under the North Sea. The tale he tells is often horrific. Accidents, disasters, hard labour for year after year until retirement and death.

In the end, however, for all the evocative strength of his prose and the vicarious sense of "home" that he creates, Hudson remains an alien. He tells of men who ended up with nothing for their labours but the clothes they stood up

in. "All they got," he writes, "was the feeling of having deserved — to live, to be able to support their families, to call themselves men."

And the brockens? These were the coal stacks, left as pillars in the shafts which were mined on the retreat when stocks ahead were exhausted. When you "came back brockens", the world you had left behind collapsed in on itself and died. Most of the Co. Durham coalfield has now "come back brockens", and we should be glad of it.

Heroes of the forgotten army

Andrew Roberts

NOT ORDINARY MEN
The Battle of Kohima Re-assessed
By John Colvin
Leo Cooper, £15.95

Kohima is an Indian hill town in the province of Manipur, close to the Burmese border. It is 5,000 feet above sea level, and commands the only all-weather road on the frontier. In the spring of 1944 the Japanese launched their U-Go offensive against British India, and for it to succeed General Kotoke Sato's 31st Division, comprising over 13,000 men, had to capture the town held by 440 men of the 4th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment as well as some Punjab and Rajput.

The fighting which took place between the initial Japanese onslaught on April 5, and April 18, when Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Messervy's 2nd British Division finally relieved the town, was among the most savage and desperate of the Second World War. For that fortnight's siege and the acts of astounding courage shown, Kohima deserves to rank beside Rorke's Drift and Arris in the annals of British military valour.

Seemingly endless Japanese attacks were thrown back by the exhausted West Kents, with plenty of hand-to-hand fighting and the no man's land often no wider than the District Commissioner's tennis court. The Japanese Empire was, in the historian John Keegan's opinion, "at the height of their aggression".

Both sides knew Kohima held the key to India itself, and once it was relieved General Slim's 14th Army was able to march on to raise the 50-day siege of Imphal further south. Soon the Japanese were on the defensive, and when they finally retreated only 20,000 of their original 55,000-strong assault force were able to walk back. Kohima was thus the Stalingrad of Burma, the place and moment where the tide of war turned against the Axis, yet to many today it is just a forgotten battle of the forgotten army.

Colvin's book attempts to change that, and he is the ideal man for the task. He was born in Japan where his father, Admiral Sir Ragnar, was naval attaché. He served off Burma in battlecruisers during the war. Colvin writes fluently and convincingly about that most difficult phe-



Members of the 14th Army battle through monsoon flooding on the Burmese border

nomen to explain — heroism. His research, largely at the Imperial War Museum with dozens of survivors' records and regimental war diaries, is painstaking and has yielded up an enormous amount of previously unpublished information, anecdotes, insights and thrilling firsthand accounts.

He brilliantly plots the

breakdown in sympathy and communication between General Sato and his commanding officer, General Renya Mutaguchi, whose 15th Army had been given the task of invading India. Sato's logistics support had collapsed during the assault and he indulged in a furious argument against his commanding officer, Colvin follows this carefully, in one of

the most interesting passages of the book.

The author also gives Mountbatten his proper credit for defying the Chiefs of Staff and the Americans over the Arakan airlift of late March, 1944, although he does point out that it was Slim's idea to initiate the lift rather than Mountbatten's, as the Supremo subsequently boasted.

Lieutenant-General Sir Montagu Stopford's XXII Corps was greatly strengthened at a crucial stage when the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions were taken by plane hundreds of miles to the north in a highly innovative and unusual operation. By hanging on to the American planes in defiance of the demands of London and Washington, largely by winning Churchill's personal support, Mountbatten did his army a signal service, although probably not quite as great a one as he was later to make out.

By opening the road to Imphal, the victory at Kohima both saved India from invasion and opened the way for the liberation of Burma. But it is for the stark individual acts of courage, rather than strategic considerations, that the battle will be remembered.

By the sixth day of the siege, in his words, the West Kents "were terribly tired, faces drawn, haggard, unshaven because of lack of water, dirty, unwashed, huge eyes with great bags underneath from exhaustion and vigilance. Their lives were centred on survival and, apart from that, on water, food, clean weapons and ammunition. They thought of 'England, Home and Beauty' and wondered why they were where they were." And they still had seven days to go.

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Peter Ackroyd examines the shy and melancholic character of the poet whose dotty limericks entrance every new generation

There was an old man who wept

EDWARD LEAR
By Peter Levi
Macmillan, £20

Edward Lear, as is so often the case with writers, might have come out of one of his own poems. Someone said that he possessed "a face partly of Socrates, partly of Sir John Falstaff", but in later life he came to resemble a boiled egg which had unaccountably grown a beard. In his nonsense verse he weeps and cries, ungainly and weebone; in his life he emits the low hum of miserable self-communing, like some bewildered bumblebee.

He drew various members of the natural world from an early age: his favourite subject seems to have been the parrot, although he was not immune to the charms of the tortoise and the whiskered yarka. In fact he was a painter long before he became a writer but, as befitted an exact contemporary of Charles Dickens, he tended to depict "the monstrous, the sinister and the eccentric". He was an early Victorian who was attracted to the birdcage rather than the factory, the zoo rather than the asylum, but he brought to these areas the same morbid fascination for the odd or the macabre.

He grew tired of parrots, however, and in his early twenties he turned towards the landscape. It is harder to date the birth of his first limerick, although Peter Levi does manage to suggest more remote origins: he makes a very plausible case for locating the source of

"nonsense verse" in the plays of the ancient mimmers as well as in the tradition of children's songs or ballads. It might in fact be possible to reach further back, and see in Lear the true interior of those "babooneries" which are to be found adorning the margins of English medieval manuscripts.

Of course the origins of Lear's particular gift are more intimate than those simply provided by cultural transmission: the mournfulness as well as the gaiety of his verse must spring from his childhood, about which very little is known and about which he professed to remember nothing. But, as Mr Levi puts it in this always interesting book, "genius is the survival of the powers of childhood into an adult world of technique and criticism". So we return to the Old Person of Tring who embellished his nose with a ring, to the Old Man of Madras and to the Pobble Who Has No Toes—about which this biography is most

eloquent. Levi has a chatty, voluble, almost excited style which may not quite ascend to the heights of scholarly inquiry but which nevertheless manages to convey enthusiasm and affection for his subject.

This is not in itself, however, a particularly happy story. For some reason Lear never found it easy to settle in England, and at the age of 25 travelled to Italy in order to sketch the dark lakes and "enormous Alps". He stayed there for a long time and became almost a professional exile, teaching, accepting various commissions, meeting the English who passed through. In 1841 he published a volume of lithographs, *Views of Rome and its Environs*, but it was not an overwhelming success and was sold only to subscribers.

In fact he seems always to have lived on the margins of life—a not very exciting artist, a not very great writer, a friend of the well-to-do

who had no real ambition for himself. There was something in his character which always held him back from success. He taught drawing to Queen Victoria for a while, but made nothing of any

Like many people who live upon the edge of life, Levi describes how he became "addicted to travelling, both as a painter and as a person"—although he preferred to travel with a sympathetic acquaintance

or, as he described one of them, "an extremely luminous and amiable brick". Lear could be very high-spirited and gregarious, although by the end of his life it becomes clear that he had always been an essentially lonely and rather shy person. It is also likely that he had no great confidence in his own talent; that is why he did not wish to settle in London, where he would be judged by



Sketch of the old man who "fell suddenly into a kettle"

prospective benefits; he was bad at managing money, appalling in business and managed somehow to get involved in the financial affairs of his servants to a disastrous extent. He was, you might say, one of life's observers—although that is not, perhaps, a bad position for a painter.

his peers, and why he did not concentrate entirely upon the production of art. He travelled, instead—to Italy, Greece, Egypt, Malta, India, Turkey, and all points exotic. His own descriptions of these places are those of a colourist rather than a writer, but why should such an adept

versifier also be a master of prose?

At the age of 38 he returned to London in order to collect a small legacy: he was modest enough to enrol himself in the Royal Academy schools, and became acquainted with Alfred Tennyson. In fact he seems in Levi's account almost like the obverse image of the famous poet—Lear's verses are often as melodious as those of Tennyson, and there are times when he seems to deliberately parody Tennysonian cadence to emphasise the "nonsense" which might lie beneath it. There is a point, Lear knew, when dignity and sonority simply become funny: some of the best moments in the book are concerned with Lear's somewhat disenchanted view of the great man's antipathies.

The misery in his character was always there, however, and it broke out with renewed vigour on the death of his sister. "Vastly, shockingly miserable and ill," he wrote in his diary, "body and mind". Yet it was in this period that he published the most successful edition of his "nonsense verse"—as Dickens had also discovered, grief can make you very funny.

They are difficult poems to describe without extensive quota-

tion, but perhaps the best account comes from Levi himself when he invokes Lear's "irrepressible longing to play". All his life, too, he suffered from epileptic seizures; the nonsense words may in some cases be the memory of some scrambled language of delirium. His vein of infant longing and nostalgia are present, also, and so these poems instinctively take the form of children's rhymes or old street ballads.

Lear's final years were spent at his house in San Remo, in the company of an old servant. He never married, but there is no evidence at all that he was homosexual; perhaps he was one of those people who never really know what they are.

There are vignettes of this last period which bring him vividly before us—Lear singing the songs of Tennyson; Lear "plodding slowly along", looking for a scene to paint, while his faithful servant follows with lunch and drawing tools; Lear writing "The Dong With The Luminous Nose" while at the same time noting down in his diary all the nonsense that was talked to him at lunches or dinners. But the final image should come from Lear himself:

"He weeps by the side of the ocean, He weeps on the top of the hill, The true spirit of the nonsense thus stands revealed."

Insomniac's guide to the darkest hour

When he was a child, Al Alvarez was frightened of the dark, a fear that he probably picked up from his mother, who suffered from multiple phobias. But the London Blitz was so exciting that it cured him of this terror, and now, whenever he isn't playing poker, he enjoys the solitude and quiet of the small hours.

This book is a meditation or rumination on the dark, elegantly written, packed with out-of-the-way information, an ideal bedside book to while away a sleepless night.

Contemporary cities are frightening places at night, but how much worse they must have been before there was street lighting. I was pleased to learn that "curfew" derives from Norman-French *couver-le-feu*, douse the fire: it dates back to times when the poor had not light but firelight. It was in 1667 that Louis XIV decreed that lanterns should be hung to illuminate Paris; and the City of London installed oil lamps on the streets in 1736. Unconvinced by the confusions of identity in *Don Giovanni* and *Figaro*, we forget that this identification was quite probable when only candles and lamps flickered fitfully on peoples' faces.

Alvarez persuaded the sleep laboratory at the Addenbrooke's

Anthony Storr

NIGHT
An Exploration of Night
Life, Night Language, Sleep
& Dreams
By Al Alvarez
Cape, £15.99

Hospital to record his brainwaves during sleep. He thought that he had had a long and dreamless sleep; but the record showed that he had not only experienced five periods of dreaming, but had also woken 23 times, albeit briefly. Never believe anyone's account of their sleep experience; they don't know what actually happens. What is certain is that the brain is ceaselessly active, even during sleep. Alvarez has read a great deal about recent brain research, but since he is a poet and a man of letters, he combines science, quotation and literary comment in a cross-disciplinary fashion which is as illuminating as it is unusual.

Freud has had a bad press recently, but Alvarez still finds *The Interpretation of Dreams* fascinating reading, in spite of recognising that Freud's theory of dreams can no longer be supported. He and I agree with Jung in supposing that dreaming, or "unconscious phantasy" as Melanie Klein called it, is a continuous process which goes on during the day as well as the night. We get glimpses of this activity when we remember our dreams on waking, or when we enter the state of reverie which is the birthplace of so many creative solutions to both scientific and aesthetic problems.

Many readers will be familiar with Coleridge's preoccupation with dreams and especially nightmares. Alvarez accepts Coleridge's own statement that he took opium to ward off nightmares without exploring the possibility, adduced by Alethea Hayler in *Opium and the Romantic Imagination* that his worst nightmares were actually caused by opium.

I was delighted to encounter the Marquis de Saint-Denis, an orientalist who was obsessed with dreams, and who claimed to be able to influence the course of his dreams by deliberately moving in and out of the state of dreaming. He trained himself to recall those intrusions of the unconscious which occur be-



The Forcibly Bewitched by Goya (1797-98): in dreams secret fears and desires drift to the surface

tween sleep and waking which most of us find so difficult to capture. As Alvarez says: "Hypnagogic hallucinations are purer than dreams because they are less structured", and I am envious of Hervey's ability to recall them.

Poker-player and mountaineer, Alvarez has always been avid for adventure, so it is unsurprising that his exploration of nightlife includes trips in police cars in both London and New York. There have been so many cases of financial corruption, faking evidence, and violence among the police themselves on both sides of the Atlantic in recent years, that we tend to forget what an awful, dangerous job they do.

Alvarez paints a grim picture of the night-world of crime: "starved and battered children, tortured animals, old people dead from hypothermia in locked flats, the blood and brain matter and fragments of bone left on the tarmac after a road accident—an unending overdose of horror." Yet these are the scenes which the police encounter every night. We are not sufficiently grateful for their protection.

This is an unusual and enthralling book, which I enjoyed enormously.

Allen Ginsberg used to be famous for stripping off his clothes as he read his poems aloud in public. But he was always more interesting than this suggests. At best, as in the early and powerful "Howl" (1956), his work was inspired by authentic rage against America's "death culture", and his Whitmanesque outpourings had political as well as personal force. Later, his elegy for his mother in "Kaddish" (1961) showed Ginsberg as a moralist capable of moving through private grief to some larger truth. Such poems stripped the poet's heart in the writing. Reading them was to share the anguish.

There is no verse of comparable quality in *Cosmopolitan Greetings*, the 68-year-old Ginsberg's latest book. However restlessly his scenes shift from Beijing and Warsaw to Nicaragua and New York, the poems return again and again to the same theme: what it is like to be an ageing, halting, wilting King of the May. The elderly rebel seems to have lost the sense of humour which once made him subversive. He gives us a long diatribe against the evils of tobacco. He gives us a short ode in praise of his own anal sphincter. Saddest of all, in "Salutations to Fernando Pessoa", Ginsberg compares him-

A wilting King of the May

Robert Nye

COSMOPOLITAN
GREETINGS
By Allen Ginsberg
Penguin, £7.99

MILLENNIAL FABLES
By Peter Porter
Oxford Paperbacks, £7.99

ENDS AND
BEGINNINGS
By Iain Crichton Smith
Carcanet, £8.95

PN REVIEW 100
Edited by Michael Schmidt
402 Corn Exchange,
Manchester M4 3BQ, £7.99

self very favourably to a much superior poet, indulging in what looks like an orgy of self-congratulation. He boasts about the number of languages into which "my celebrated Howl" has been translated. Irony may be intended, but it is not achieved.

The best thing in the volume is its prefatory poem, 43 statements each beginning "I write poetry because..." The first of these is memorable: "I write poetry because the English word inspiration comes from Latin 'Spiritus', breath. I want to breathe freely." Ginsberg in this mood and mode can be truly beguiling. A pity there is not more such candour in the rest of the book.

Peter Porter might seem a trickster by comparison, but allow for a quite separate tradition of witty artifice and his *Millennial Fables* can be welcomed as an attractive box of tricks. "Fudibrastics in a Hurry"—a title which could apply to a lot of his work—strikes me as particularly clever, and not untypical in that its intelligence appears ultimately a touch heartless.

Byron and Pope and Butler are the masters here, but Porter dances his own dance in their footsteps. He once described his work as dealing with "the art and life of the past, the everyday life of the present", and that would be true of this book, his thirtieth (he is nothing if not prolific).

Born in Brisbane in 1929, Porter has lived mostly in London since the early Fifties but the interesting thing is that for all his sophistication his poetic voice has never quite acquired an English accent. I recall a line from about five volumes back: "I want to get myself a piece of real." Only an Australian could have written that. There are similar vibrancies in the new work, especially in the second half of the book, entitled "Homage to Robert Browning", a series of monologues and character pieces in which different voices are made to speak. Here is literary cunning and accomplishment of a high order.

With the exception of Sorley MacLean (who of course writes in Gaelic), Iain Crichton Smith must be the finest Scottish poet since Hugh MacDiarmid. Patiently, far away from the distractions of fame, he has worked over the past four decades to refine a style that was always original to the point where he seems able now to make poetry out of anything that occurs to him. Born on Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, Smith understands the

Calvinist conscience from the inside. He has written unforgettably about its effects on rural Scottish life, yet he is not in the last analysis a "regional" writer. His landscapes are countries of the mind.

All this is evident in *Ends and Beginnings*, a collection as various as any Smith has written, ranging from a long meditation on the Israeli-Palestinian War occasioned by a visit to the Golan Heights to small but telling observations on the nature of poetry itself. "Poetry is a smart planet/with which we are in touch, from which we receive at certain times messages. One of Smith's best poems is about two girls he heard singing on a bus—the unpredictable voices of our kind." It is spontaneous such as this which his work celebrates, setting them against all dogma.

MICHAEL Schmidt's *PN Review* has reached its 100th issue—a rare feat for a little magazine, but then *PN Review* has always been exceptional. Edgell Rickwood and Laura Riding head the list of 88 poets represented in this centennial number. The whole is called "A Calendar of Modern Poetry", and stands as testament to the magazine's seriousness and dedication over the past two decades.

Under the skin of a surrealist

Mark Le Fanu

BUNUEL
By John Baxter
Fourth Estate, £18.99

meeting an old friend for lunch in a restaurant—should be conducted decorously and expansively.

Oddly enough, the firebrand elements of Buñuel's personality fit in perfectly well with this punctiliousness. Even in his surrealist provocations, he wanted to remain cool and above the throng. John Baxter's biography becomes engaging at precisely those moments when he catches Buñuel's all-encompassing savvy on the hop.

Looking at Buñuel's career as it develops—rather than in retrospect—is to see how often the great director was embarrassed: not only in the financial sense, but also by a hesitation in front of uncomfortable life choices which ideally should not afflict a free spirit. Should he, for example, marry? Or christen his child? Or work in Hollywood? Or fight for the loyalists in Spain? Should he admit to being a communist? Baxter brings out a side of Buñuel that was questioning and socially insecure, not always (with women) very gallant, and physically very often clumsy.

It is an attractive portrait nevertheless, which does not lose the sight of the steel beneath: the seriousness and long-term dedication of the man as an artist. Baxter has interviewed many people close to the director. He writes fluently and with assurance about Buñuel's milieu. The only fault in a book which all enthusiasts will want in its film criticism. This is unfocused and lacking in energy. A more rigorous textual exegesis would have made the book stronger and more serious.

The generosity of genius

Sean French

JEAN RENOIR
Letters
Edited by Lorraine Lo Bianco
and
David Thompson
Faber, £25



Renoir: tossed like a shipwreck

Second World War. Like most of them he found that his huge non-American reputation counted for almost nothing. (Marcel Dalio, the star of *La Règle du Jeu* and *La Grande Illusion*, was reduced to playing—very well—the comic croupier in *Casablanca*). Born in 1894, Renoir was too old to remake his career in Hollywood but there was nothing tragic about his fate there.

These letters show him conducting himself with immense dignity.

He never capitulated and he produced two films, *The Southerner* (co-written with William Faulkner) and *Diary of a Chambermaid* that were both entirely worthy of him.

There is an immense generosity about Renoir which extends to his characters. There are no casual villains or bores in his films—"Every man has his reasons"—as Octave (played by Renoir himself) says in *La Règle du Jeu*. The same breadth of sympathy runs through this book.

He was one of the great inspirers of young directors of very different kinds. Luchino Visconti was an assistant on *Une Partie de Campagne*, Robert Aldrich on *The Southerner*, Satyajit Ray on his Indian masterpiece, *The River*. The leading figures of the French new wave—Truffaut, Godard, Malle—looked to him as their cinematic father.

Unlike so many directors, Renoir never relapsed into resentment of younger men. In one letter he reflects that "our profession is the only one which is not anachronistic. I don't mean to say that the other art-forms are obsolete, but that their success is due to individuals."

How marvellous that this should be written by a man of 80. How marvellous also that it should be expressed not in his own work, but about that of François Truffaut, in response to a collection of Truffaut's film criticism. This is a truly heartening book.

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(ANGLIAN REGION)
CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Peterborough

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The duties of the Chair include chairing the three meetings of the Committee and representing the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee on other NRA committees in the Region. (approximately 20 meetings per year). The meetings usually take place in Peterborough.

The position is remunerated on the basis of an expected workload of five days per month and the initial appointment would be for one year with a possible extension thereafter.

Applications are required by 26 January 1995 and should be sent to Grainger Davies, Regional General Manager, at the address below. There is no application form and applicants are asked to submit nominations and a CV either on their own behalf or on behalf of others.

Further details regarding the position of Chair of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee can be obtained from Mike Pitt on telephone number (01733) 454275.

National Rivers Authority,
Anglian Region,
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Goldthorpe Way,
Orton Goldthorpe,
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SOCPA

Rye warms to trials of President's Putter

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

A WINTRY sun streamed onto the East Sussex marshland. A biting wind, blown with vigour from the Alps, sliced across the golf course. Inside the sturdy, single-storey clubhouse at Rye, ham and scrambled eggs were being eaten, claret was being drunk.

Over port and cheese, the reminiscences were of the weather and of England's performance in the Test match in Australia, subjects of conversation that will be discussed as long as England remains England.

Thus it was on the eve, this year, of the President's Putter, which is amateur golf's annual celebration of glorious madness. It is a ritual that could take place only in a country where people break the ice to

Ernie Els will start favourite in the Bell's Cup, which starts at Fancourt golf club in the coastal town of George in South Africa today. Mark McNulty and Tony Johnstone, from Zimbabwe, and Barry Lane, of Great Britain, will provide his main opposition.

go swimming on Christmas Day.

The President's Putter is played at Rye, that glorious course three miles from the ancient town, by members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society. By tradition it is held in early January, the time when snow, ice, heavy frost and all other unpleasant climatic conditions are prone to be at their most severe in the bottom right-hand corner of England.

This is all part of the event's appeal. The golf is the main thing, of course, but the pain and discomfort inflicted by playing in such conditions and the bliss of warming up in convivial surroundings afterwards, contribute to the success of this event. The President's Putter just would not be the same if it were played each midsummer.

It had looked as though the weather was going to play its part to perfection this year. Snow fell on New Year's Day, dousing the countryside in what looked like icing sugar. Heavy frost bit deep into the soil and caused the course to be closed on Monday and

Tuesday. It was tough and go whether this exotic competition would start on time.

Then, on Tuesday night, a warm wind began to blow, drawing the frost out of the ground and, as the competitors gathered at Rye yesterday, they were greeted by a course that looked to be in wonderful condition. Trevor Ockenden, the greenkeeper for more than 30 years, spoke reassuring words in the warmth of the secretary's office: "There won't be any snow," he said. "The wind needs to change for that and I don't think it will."

So, just after dawn this morning, men will leave the warmth of their lodgings in the honeycombed town of Rye and make their way down to the golf club. There they will dress as Scott did for the Antarctic and head off for a round of golf. Give or take a few, 150 of them will start this morning to compete at matchplay over 18 holes and two will be left to fight out the final on Sunday.

Since the format of the competition requires eight matches to be played in four days, it is fair to say that the winner will be a golfer with ability and a strong constitution.

Young and old come from far and wide to play in the President's Putter, from Hong Kong, Australia, Germany, the Bahamas and the United States. The youngest are the members of the university teams, some of whom are barely one fourth the age of Peter Gracey, who is gracing this event for a 46th time. Gracey, a Wellingtonian, was born in December 1912.

"Oh dear," the gentlemanly Gracey said yesterday afternoon as he took off his golf shoes and rested his bag of clubs, which he always carries over his shoulder, against a wall just outside the changing room. "My golf is so bad at present."

It did not matter. One of the many charms of the President's Putter is that there is hardly an event of comparable importance in the world of sport where the result matters less. At Rye this week it is the taking part, and the manner of the taking part, that counts. And that, in these combative sporting days, is a blessed, if brief, relief.

Ambitious Borg aiming to outfox City

Russell Kempson talks to a Diadora League manager relishing the chance to pit his wits against top-flight rivals

On the non-league circuit, George Borg has been there, seen it, done it. A player with Leytonstone, Dulwich Hamlet, Wycombe Wanderers, Dartford and Maidstone United. He has also read the book, watched the film, worn the T-shirt. Player-manager with Barking and Chesham United, Harrow Borough and now Enfield. For him, the semi-professional game holds few surprises or secrets.

At 36, the urge for further development, extra challenges is in control. Just. He is only in his first season in sole charge at Southbury Road as Enfield's upwardly mobile among the leaders of the Diadora League premier division, flex their muscles for a push back to the GM Vauxhall Conference after a five-year absence.



Good times, good prospects. Yet at Filbert Street on Saturday, against Leicester City in the third round of the FA Cup, Borg will experience all that he aspires to. A chance to pit his wits at a more exalted and exacting level, a chance to test his powers of motivation and inspiration as never before. An enticing example of what, ultimately, might lie in store for the former electrician and interior decorator.

"Of course I'm ambitious," he said. "I'd love to manage in the league, who wouldn't? I want to progress as high as possible and it's probably just a question of getting recognised, of getting that bit of luck and making someone sit up and take notice."

Borg took over from Graham Roberts, ascending from his assistant's role, at the start of the season after the former Tottenham Hotspur defender had moved on by mutual consent. A two-year contract, however, lies gathering dust in the clubhouse. "Contracts are supposedly not worth the paper they are written on and that's about right," he said.

"I'm quite content with a handshake or gentlemen's agreement, call it what you want. It's no great problem.



Fred, the club mascot, Borg and the Enfield team hope to leave Leicester City open-mouthed on Saturday

I'm working with good people here, intelligent people with a good football knowledge, and I'm happy. If I'm happy, I'll stay; if not, I'll probably get the sack."

Borg is employed full-time, a rarity in the Diadora fraternity, and in many other aspects is already among the professionals. Enfield think big, act big and feel they are simply hiding their true face before swiftly graduating to league status. The club finances are healthy and Tony Lazarou, the chairman and managing director, has imaginative plans for a state-of-the-art leisure complex around Southbury Road.

In keeping with its go-ahead image, the club has coped patiently and diligently with the overwhelming demand for information and interviews this week, even using its close links with the

Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, to maximise publicity opportunities.

Fred, a sick three-year-old fox who was taken in by the park and restored to health, has been adopted as the Enfield mascot against

Monday as Leicester lost 4-1 against Ipswich Town and has spotted weaknesses he hopes his players will exploit. "If they defend like that against us, we must have a shout," he said.

Enfield are dipping their feet in almost uncharted waters.

'Whatever happens, my team will certainly not lie down and die'

Leicester, nicknamed the Foxes, Borg, grey of hair, born in Bethnal Green and with a typical East End sense of fun, has joined in the frivolities. Thus, the Silver Fox meets the red fox meets the Foxes. Giddy?

Saturday is serious, though, with Borg already hatching a cunning plan. He watched at Portman Road on

Monday as Leicester lost 4-1 against Ipswich Town and has spotted weaknesses he hopes his players will exploit. "If they defend like that against us, we must have a shout," he said.

Enfield are dipping their feet in almost uncharted waters.

Gary Abbott, fruit and veg seller and leading goalscorer, because of suspension, he retains a mood of cheery optimism. "One thing is certain," he said. "Whatever happens, my team will certainly not lie down and die."

As always, the Diadora title and re-entry to the Conference remain the priorities. FA Cup romance and a projected profit of more than £80,000 from Filbert Street is a bonus.

Borg has no illusions. Yet, when the former Millwall apprentice recalls his football past, he catches a possible glimpse of the future. At Dulwich, he was managed by Alan Smith, now at Crystal Palace; at Maidstone, he was managed by Barry Fry, now at Birmingham City. Oh to emulate the men he once obeyed. "Nice thought, isn't it?" he said.

Absence makes Bristol's task grow harder

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the Courage Clubs Championship entered its midwinter break, Bath were in their usual position, on top. Yet they looked thoughtfully at the match with which, on Saturday, they will resume their league programme, away to Bristol.

Four defeats mean that Bristol, in fourth place, are off the pace as title candidates, but they will always give themselves a prospect of doing well against Bath, even though they have yet to beat them in the league. They would fancy themselves rather more if they did not have a string of worrying injuries to be resolved.

Three international-squad members and their leading points scorer could miss the game. Paul Hull, the England full back, is desperate for a game after damaging an Achilles tendon playing against Canada on December 10, to prove his fitness to himself as much as to the England selectors, who, during warm-weather training in Lanzarote over the new year, played Mike Catt at full back in the prospective senior side.

Brian Hanlon, Bristol's coaching co-ordinator, will leave a decision on Hull as late as possible but faces the possible absence of Simon Shaw, the England squad lock, Alan Sharp, the Scotland loose-head prop, and Mark Tainton, who is among the country's top-ten scorers.

"We are a strong prospect at home," Hanlon said. "We have only lost to Wasps when three key players were missing, and if we play like we did against Leicester in November, we must have a chance."

However, even if his pack can force the pace as it did against Bath on the opening weekend of the league, in September, a goal-kicker is needed to punish my mistakes. If Tainton has not recovered from an operation on his nose, broken playing against Clifton on New Year's Eve, Nick Edmonds, the former Bridgewater stand-off half, will play, while Dave Bennett, late of Newcastle Gosforth, stands by for Hull.

Michael Bradley, the Ireland captain, who aggravated a wrist injury in the international against the United States in November and missed the inter-provincial championship, will play for Cork Constitution on Saturday in the All-Ireland League match with Blackrock College.

SPORTS LETTERS

Evidence against cormorants

From Mr E. R. Kelly

Sir, The RSPB (Graham Wynne, December 29) is flying in the face of the facts if it chooses to ignore the growing body of evidence of cormorant damage to fish stocks in many areas of the country. Brian Clarke's lucid survey of the situation (December 21) confirmed what a great many anglers, fishery owners and river keepers already know to their cost.

Members of my association, representing the premier still-water trout fisheries in England and Wales and providing facilities for many thousands of anglers, are suffering significant financial loss as more and more cormorants move from their traditional and fish-depleted coastal waters to enclosed stillwaters. Stocking waters with good-quality trout is an expensive business and no fishery manager can watch with equanimity as an ever-increasing number of cormorants takes quantities of fish and damage a great many more. A serious level of predation of such prestigious fisheries as Chew and Grafham is plainly visible, and even the smaller fisheries around the country, which in earlier years hardly ever saw a cormorant, now find themselves playing unhappy hosts to these birds.

Nor is the problem confined to the UK; organisations in Northern and Central Europe are becoming concerned about the influence of cormorants on fish stocks and are seeking to concert efforts to bring the situation under control. Almost every conference of angling or fishery interests has cormorant predation on its agenda.

ASGFM, an organisation as conservationally minded as any in the country, this year commissioned the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, an organisation of international repute, to examine the situation in some depth. The evidence supplied by ASGFM fishery managers, most of whom live

with the problem almost daily, as well as that taken from the Trust's own sources, left no doubt that the cormorant population is expanding at a rate that bodes ill for future fish stocks. Without wishing to recap on Brian Clarke's well-informed article, I must underline two of the important research conclusions, that (a) cormorant numbers are increasing by between six and 10 per cent per year and (b) more than 70 per cent of ASGFM members reported they are suffering "significant economic damage".

Proposals for further research may be in the pipeline, but my members will certainly endorse Brian's admonition: "What is absolutely not needed is more ruminating research in the face of the self-evident, with effective action suspended in the meantime." Everyone involved in angling now looks to MAFF, DoE, NRA and the other organisations (including Brussels) which share responsibilities for management and control of cormorants to adopt a more positive and urgent response to their situation.

Yours faithfully,
E. R. KELLY,
Chairman,
Association of Stillwater Game Fishery Managers,
Packington Fisheries,
Meriden, Coventry.

Club rivalries

From Mr Peter J. Golley

Sir, I much enjoyed David Hands's piece on Cornish rugby union report, December 27. His pinpointing of the animosities that beset the sport in Cornwall is particularly apposite.

However, the inter-club rivalries that he indicates are part and parcel of the Cornish temperament: did not the greatest of Cornish literati, Doctor A. L. Rowse, write in *Discovering Shave*

Record put straight

From Mr Alan Coking

Sir, Mr Russell Kempson (report, December 27) reports the record set by the Mansfield Town team when ten of its players were "booked" in an FA Cup third-round match, away to Crystal Palace in January 1963.

As a former resident of Mansfield, I went to see that game. Mansfield led Palace 2-1 throughout the second half but were denied victory when Palace equalised with the last kick of the match, a penalty, hotly disputed because the "offending" player slipped in the mud when making a tackle - and, in any case, it was very doubtful if he was actually in the penalty area at the moment of impact.

The Mansfield players were so incensed that they lined up and gave the unfortunate referee a "slow handclap" as he left the field. He promptly booked ten of them - who the one was who "got away" must remain a mystery.

However, they got the matter put right by defeating Palace 7-2 in the replay at Mansfield.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COCKING,
6 Orchard Avenue,
Shirley, Croydon,
Surrey.

... as a good Celt [I] have not forgiven it? For all that, when Trelawny's Army marches on Twickenham, "One and All" suddenly comes into its own! Yours faithfully, PETER GOLLEY, 1, Willow Tree Close, Okehampton, Devon.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Teachers deserve some credit

From Mr David Lomas

Sir, Since the events of Melbourne, where English cricket plumed new depths, much has been said and written about the remedies for the illness from which the game in this country suffers.

As usual, the schools come in for criticism. There is certainly much that could be done to improve matters, if the Government wishes. But when a new hero emerges, such as Darren Gough, do many people know his background as captain of Barnsley Schools sides (from under-11, with a girl in the side to under-15, and as a pupil at a state comprehensive school)?

Why don't the teachers, still working so hard against the odds, ever get credit for their mostly voluntary efforts?

As honorary secretary of Croydon Schools' Cricket Association - one of the oldest in the country, which celebrated its centenary season in 1994 in style, I know just how active

and committed the teachers are at all types of school in Croydon. My track record as manager of our under-15 district side is light years ahead of that of Keith Fletcher.

Our philosophy is simple: Play fair (accept all umpiring decisions, win if you can but it's only a game, not a war) and, most important of all, enjoy it.

Of course, the professional game ethos is different. What is desperately called for is a captain with a cricket brain (and not just a Cambridge degree) and men of vision to drag the game into the next century.

As a Yorkshireman, I declare my interest. I await the call from Lord's - or 10 Downing Street. Yours faithfully, DAVID LOMAS, Hon Secretary, Croydon Schools' Cricket Association, 21, Northampton Road, Croydon, Surrey.

Tribute to May

From Mr Patrick Showlton

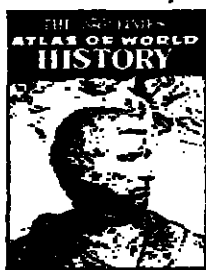
Sir, In your tribute to Peter May (report, December 28) mention is made of his prowess at other sports as well as cricket. At Cambridge he played football for the university against Oxford for three years running, but it was at Eton Fives he excelled. He was the outstanding player of his generation, winning, with his

brother, John, the Kinraid Cup (the Open championship) 1951, 1952 and 1953 - a fact which, with typical modesty, he never recorded in his *Who's Who* entry. He virtually retired from the game at 24; otherwise the brothers May would have been champions many more years. Yours faithfully, PATRICK SHOWLTON, 68, London Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

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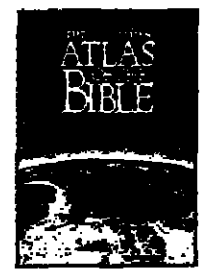
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Shilton suspended over unpaid tax

By Russell Kempson

PETER SHILTON, the Plymouth Argyle manager and former England goalkeeper, was yesterday suspended on full pay by the Football League second division club. He has been told to stay away from the ground and will not be in charge for the FA Cup third-round tie at Nottingham Forest, one of his former clubs, on Saturday.

Steve McCull, 34, the former Ipswich Town and Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, has been appointed temporary player-manager and will lead Plymouth at the City Ground, 18th Bowyer, Shilton's assistant at Home Park and another former Forest favourite, will help McCull until the situation is resolved, probably next week. It is believed the club's lawyers are looking at Shilton's contract to clarify exactly what further action is open to them. Shilton is also taking legal advice.

Shilton, 45, was summoned to a board meeting at the club to explain why he had been unable to pay a tax debt of £50,000. Dan McCauley, the Plymouth chairman, had given him yesterday as the deadline for him to settle the outstanding liability or face dismissal. In the event, neither happened, with Shilton arriving a quarter of an hour late for the meeting, spending only six minutes in it and then collecting a briefcase from his office before leaving Home Park.

"I've been suspended for a few days pending further discussions," he said. "After that, I will have another meeting with the board." McCauley emerged later and said: "Peter has been advised to stay away, and he will not be allowed to travel on the team coach on Saturday, but he is more than entitled to make his own way there."

He disclosed that, since November, the club had been deducting money from Shilton's wages - understood to be £10,000 a year - to cover alleged debts.

Shilton's highly publicised problems stem from the day he succeeded David Kemp as manager in March 1992. Plymouth agreed a signing-on

fee reputed to be worth £125,000 but left Shilton to pay the £50,000 tax bill on it. This, the club claims, has not happened and is the crux of the latest dispute between McCauley and Shilton.

While the team remained reasonably competitive in the league, much of the growing antagonism between chairman and manager remained hidden. Though Plymouth were relegated from the old second division, now the first division, at the end of the 1991-92 season, Shilton was deemed not responsible as he had been in charge for only two months.

In the 1992-93 campaign, Plymouth finished fourteenth in the new second division and last season they produced their best form under Shilton. They finished third but missed promotion after losing 3-1 on aggregate to Burnley in the play-off semi-finals.

It was a portent of things to come, with Plymouth's fortunes sliding from merely frustrating to abysmal. They are fourth from bottom in the second division, and McCauley has indulged in the most public condemnation of Shilton and his alleged tangle of financial troubles.

Although Shilton, who won a record 125 England caps, signed a new two-year contract only three months ago, his relationship with McCauley has now deteriorated to the point of almost no return. McCauley has claimed, at regular intervals over the past few months, that the club has made Shilton a series of loans, some of which are still outstanding.

Shilton has also fallen out with John McGovern, his former assistant at Home Park, and Martin Pipe, the racehorse trainer. McGovern left Plymouth in October, claiming Shilton still owed him £7,000 from a personal loan that should have been repaid a year ago. Last month, Shilton was the subject of a bankruptcy petition by Pipe over unpaid training fees of £3,000, but the debt has since been settled.



Shilton's troubled reign as Plymouth manager was temporarily halted yesterday. Photograph: Chris Smith

Reading duo eye permanent post

By Our Sports Staff

READING'S caretaker-manager pairing of Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn are hoping that supporter power will drive them into the Elm Park hot-seats on a permanent basis when the club announces its decision today. Gooding and Quinn, both 35-year-old players, have overseen the team since Mark McGhee left for Leicester City last month.

Reading have stayed in contention in the first division promotion race by losing only one of their five games without an official manager. Gooding, the versatile midfielder twice voted player of the year in McGhee's three-year reign, said:

"The supporters seem behind us, which is really encouraging. We don't want to make excuses but, considering the number of players we've had out injured, we think the team's done really well. Jimmy and I think we've acquired ourselves quite decently - now we'll have to wait and see what the board think."

High-profile managers such as Osvaldo Ardides and Mike Walker, who started his playing career with Reading, are also thought to be in the running. The club has called a news conference for 9.30am. The new manager, or managers, will be in charge for Reading's third-round FA Cup tie at home to Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

Brian Hamilton made a short journey through Edinburgh yesterday and so crossed one of football's great cultural divides (Kevin McCarra writes). The Hibernian midfielder player has agreed to join Heart of Midlothian in a transfer, the value of which may have to be fixed by tribunal.

Hamilton had been at Easter Road since joining Hibernian from St Mirren for £75,000 in 1989. The club expects at least to recoup that sum, but the Hearts manager, Tommy McLean, values the player at only £175,000. Hamilton, 28, had been operating on monthly contracts after failing to agree new terms with Hibernian.

Six-month ban on Ledger

By Christopher Irvine

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) has banned Barry Ledger, of Swinton, for six months, after learning that a second sample given by the former Great Britain winger also contained traces of cannabis detected by a drugs test eight weeks ago.

It is not the maximum suspension available under the Rugby League by-laws. That is two years, which was the term recently given Jamie Bloom, the former Doncaster and South Africa full back, in the first case of steroid abuse in the sport in this country.

Although cannabis is not considered a performance-enhancing drug, the RFL said the ban imposed on Ledger reflected a determination to stamp out any form of drug abuse. In only one other case has a player known to have taken cannabis, the RFL banned

Dave Watson, the Bradford Northern and New Zealand full back, for three months after he tested positive while playing for Halifax in 1992.

Ledger's suspension is backdated to November 29, when news of the first positive test was announced. He had been tested after the second division match against Ryedale three weeks earlier. Ledger, 32, then asked that his B sample be analysed and the Sports Council's drug-testing unit confirmed traces of cannabis.

After a two-hour hearing in Leeds, Ledger said he felt the sentence was too long although he did not plan to appeal. As it has ruled him out for the remainder of the season, he is assessing his future in the game. Swinton, in the meantime, are to retain the player's registration forms. Malcolm White, the Swinton chairman, said: "We presented Barry's excellent record and submitted mitigating circumstances. While we feel the sentence was very severe, we support the Rugby League in its determination to eliminate any misuse of drugs."

Rugby league's reputation for being a drugs-free sport is one the League is anxious to reassert. Rodney Walker, the RFL chairman and chairman of the Sports Council, said: "The image of our game is very important to all of us at Chapelown Road [RFL headquarters] and we are determined to warn all rugby league players about the folly of drug abuse."

Bloom's appeal was held up yesterday because his solicitor was unavailable. A new date has yet to be fixed.

Leading article, page 19

Kong faces fitness battle

By Richard Eaton

KONG LINGHUI, the Asian table tennis champion, says he could be the next world champion, is fighting to regain fitness in time for the English open, which begins at Thornaby Pavilion today. The presence of Kong, 19, as second seed is crucial not only to add prestige to the tournament, which is the highlight of the British calendar, but as a possible dress rehearsal for the sport's most fascinating confrontation.

Kong, if he plays, will be confronted by the No 1 seed, Peter Karlsson, the former world champion, Jorgen Persson and the former European champion, Mikael Appelgren - three of the leading men who helped Sweden to take the world team title three times in a row.

Kong played only three matches in the recent series

against England before suffering an injured shoulder. He had already shown, however, that the speed of his top spin loop is frightening, that his backhand block positions itself as if gifted with radar and that he has the quick, quiet footwork of a killer.

"So much in big tournaments depends on temperament, but in certain areas he has obvious class and from the middle of the table he is probably the best player I have ever faced," Alan Cooke of England, a silver medal-winner at the Commonwealth Games, said.

If Kong can produce some of that form against the aggression of Karlsson and the fluent genius of Persson, it could provide the English open with a unique fore-runner. There is unlikely to be further meetings between the Swedes and the

Chinese before the latter seek world championship revenge on the Scandinavians at Tientsin in May.

It is possible that the three other Chinese who helped to beat England in the six-match series, Xiong Ke, Li Jing and Jiang Shan, could be serious contenders, both now and in May. Another former Chinese international, Chen Xinhui, the emigrant who now plays for Britain, is, however, seeded fourth behind Karlsson, Kong and Persson at Thornaby.

Chen, nearly 35, has been bothered by a thigh injury and worries over the continuation of his contract with the German club, Ochsenshausen.

Of England's other seeded players, Carl Prean has withdrawn because of injury and Lisa Lomas is hoping to regain full match fitness in time for the tournament.

French team ends Obree's contract

By Peter Bryan

GRAEME OBREE, who had a meteoric rise in international cycling in 1993 when, as an amateur, he set a world one-hour record and two months later won the world 4,000 metres pursuit title, faces an uncertain future as a professional.

Yesterday, just four days into a lucrative, two-year contract with Le Groupement, the new French-sponsored team, the agreement was ended by the squad director, Patrick Valke, one of Europe's most respected managers.

Obree, a 29-year-old Scot from Irvine, failed to join the team's pre-season training camp at a ski resort near Geneva on New Year's Day without explanation. He was also scheduled to attend the formal team presentation at Lille on January 9.

Obree, who has been surrounded by controversy in his 15 years in cycle racing, was not available last night. His business manager, Dublin-based Frank Quinn, said that he was "disappointed for Obree" to hear the news of his cancelled contract.

"Teams in Europe are cutting back on the number of riders they take on. Le Groupement, a French mail-order company, offered Obree an opportunity that made him the envy of so many," Quinn said.

He would have been in a line-up that included a fellow Scot, Robert Millar, and the

sponsors had agreed that Obree would be given the opportunity to prepare for an attempt on Tony Rominger's world one-hour record as well as this year's world pursuit championship in Colombia.

Close friends say that Obree was having to curtail his intensive pre-Christmas training sessions in Scotland because of severe headaches. Obree's first appearance on the international scene was at Hamar, Norway, in July 1993, when, on his home-made machine, he added 400 metres to the world one-hour record set by Francesco Moser nine years previously. But six days later Obree's distance of 51,596km was beaten by the Olympic champion, Chris Boardman, who covered 52,270km at Bordeaux.

Obree, when favourite to retain his world pursuit crown in Sicily last August, fell foul of officialdom in his qualifying ride. First, his saddles, all home made, were not accepted but he cleared that hurdle by choosing one from a child's mountain bike. Then, moments before he started, he was warned not to allow his chest to rest on his narrow, flat handlebars.

Obree was disqualified at the end of his time-trial and Boardman went on to win the pursuit title. Obree is Britain's fastest rider at ten miles and 50 miles on the road, with times of 18min 27sec, and 1hr 39min 05sec.

| FOR THE RECORD | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| BASKETBALL (NBA) | | | | | | | | | |
| Portland 103 Atlanta 88; New Jersey 114 Indiana 103; Seattle 121 Washington 107; Phoenix 108 Dallas 90 (2 OT); Houston 109 Sacramento 100; Houston 110 Dallas 96; Utah 123 Minnesota 91; San Antonio 91 Golden State 85; LA Lakers 100 Detroit 87. | | | | | | | | | |
| BOXING | | | | | | | | | |
| EPIFANY, France: European light-middleweight championship: Laurent Bourgeois (Fr) vs Jean Castillejo (Pdeu), 5th round KO. | | | | | | | | | |
| CRESTA RUN | | | | | | | | | |
| ST MORITZ: Roger Glaba Challenge Cup, 1. J. Shapiro (GB) 128.57sec, 2. C. Taylor (GB) 128.67, 3. D. van Rooijen (Ger) 127.84, 4. C. Emelot (GB) 128.11. | | | | | | | | | |
| CRICKET | | | | | | | | | |
| EAST LONDON: Test match (first day of tour): Border 223 and 225; A. Llewellyn 77, C. Jones 70, St. Lawrence 404. Match drawn. | | | | | | | | | |
| BENNETT, Australia: Test match (one day): Zimbabwe 105 (Kempson 4-30); Queensland 109-0 (M. Hayden 51). Queensland won by six wickets. | | | | | | | | | |
| DURBAN: Test match (first day of tour): Natal 301 (N. Wright 57, D. Henderson 78, D. Groenewald 65, K. Nkomo 4-70); Pakistan 0. | | | | | | | | | |
| DARTS | | | | | | | | | |
| PRIMLEY GREEN: British Darts Organisation world championship: Second round: R. Burrows (N) 6-3, D. Aspin (Eng) 3-0, C. Monk (Eng) 1-0, P. Hurst (N) 3-2, M. Gray (Eng) 1-0, J. Hurrell (Eng) 3-2, M. Aspin (Eng) 1-0, K. Pinner (Eng) 3-0. | | | | | | | | | |
| FOOTBALL | | | | | | | | | |
| AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Cardiff 2 Birmingham 1. Tuesday's late results. | | | | | | | | | |
| FA CUP: Premier League: Manchester United 2 Coventry 0. Postponed: Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea. | | | | | | | | | |
| ENGLISH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Millwall 1 Oldham 1. Postponed: Port Vale v Scunthorpe. | | | | | | | | | |
| VALDHAUS CONFERENCE: Postponed: Rotherham v Southport. | | | | | | | | | |
| SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed: Bonwick v Queen of the South. | | | | | | | | | |
| PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Everton 5 Tottenham 0. Leeds 3 Rotherham 1. Postponed: Notts County v Walsingham. Walsingham 2. Second division: Birmingham 0 Burnley 0. Postponed: Leicester City v Huddersfield Town, Manchester City v Newcastle United, Middlesbrough v Middlesbrough, Preston v Bradford City. | | | | | | | | | |
| DIADORA LEAGUE: Second division: Middlesbrough 2 Chester 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| FRENCH LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Basco 3 Amiens 0, Nant 2 Lens 3, Toulouse 2. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 SOCHTUS: 1. Pinner 1, 2. St. Lawrence 1, 3. St. Lawrence 1, 4. St. Lawrence 1, 5. St. Lawrence 1, 6. St. Lawrence 1, 7. St. Lawrence 1, 8. St. Lawrence 1, 9. St. Lawrence 1, 10. St. Lawrence 1. | | | | | | | | | |

Germany secure semi-final place

BORIS BECKER and Anke Huber powered to impressive singles victories yesterday as Germany beat Austria 2-1 and clinched a place in the semi-finals of the Hopman Cup team tennis championship in Perth, Australia. Huber beat Judith Wiesner 6-1, 6-2 in the opening women's singles and Becker then hit 15 aces in taking just 70 minutes to overcome Horst Skoff 6-3, 6-4 at the Burswood Dome. The Austrians restored some pride when they won a lighthearted and irrelevant mixed-doubles match.

Germany, the No 2 seeds, will now meet France, the No 6 seeds, who upset Spain, the No 3 seeds, 3-0 in their quarter-final. Julie Halard enjoyed an unexpected success when she beat Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon singles champion, 7-6, 7-5 and Jean-Philippe Fleurian then sealed victory with a 7-5, 6-1 triumph over Alberto Costa.

Three-prong challenge

SQUASH: England's chances of recovering the Dyrdsale Cup strengthened at Lamb's Club, London, yesterday when three of the quarter-finals in the under-19 category of the Commercial Union British junior championship were won by home players. Chris Tomlinson, John Dale and Iain Higgins. Tomlinson, of Kent, effectively the top seed after the late withdrawal of the defending champion, Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, cruised through by beating Kenneth Low, of Malaysia, 9-1, 9-2, 9-5 in 28 minutes. The other semi-finalist is Markus Koppitz, of Germany, who came from two games down to beat another Malaysian, Michael Soo.

Vatanen stretches lead

MOTOR RALLYING: Ari Vatanen, of Finland, almost doubled his lead in the Dakar rally yesterday despite getting lost briefly during the fourth stage in Morocco. Vatanen started the day more than seven minutes ahead of his Citroen team-mate, Pierre Larigue, of France, and ended it with an advantage of 14 minutes over another Citroen driver, Timo Salonen, a fellow Finn, who moved up to second. Jean-Pierre Focant, of France, produced the best performance of the day, but Vatanen drove hard after his deviation to finish better than the rest of his main rivals.

Win for needed Foster

SWIMMING: Mark Foster, of Britain, completed a winning double yesterday in the World Cup short-course meeting in Hong Kong. Foster, winner of the 50 metres butterfly on the opening day, took the 50 metres freestyle in 22.46sec after a course of acupuncture treatment to ease a back injury. Franziska van Almsick, of Germany, added the 100 and 400 metres freestyle titles to her wins at 50 and 200 metres as the German squad took first place in 22 of the 34 events in the absence of competitors from China, Australia, Russia and the United States.

Gregory speaks out

DARTS: Mike Gregory insisted yesterday that the Embassy world championship, being held at Frintley Green, is the true championship. Phil Taylor won the unofficial Proton Cars world championship at Purfleet on Monday but Gregory said: "Phil is a great player but something that has gone on for 15 years, like the Embassy, must be the championship." Gregory, 38, left the British Darts Organisation (BDO) two years ago to help form the World Darts Council. He returned to the BDO after ten months.

Young wins NFL poll

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The quarterback, Steve Young, of the San Francisco 49ers, has been selected as the most valuable player in the National Football League (NFL) by a nationwide panel of 98 writers and broadcasters polled by the Associated Press. Young had the best season of his ten-year career, breaking Joe Montana's NFL passing-rating record and team touchdown and completion percentage marks. It is Young's second most-valuable player award in three years. Montana won in 1989 and 1990.

Hungarian keeps lead

YACHTING: Sabalos Majthenyi, from Hungary, won the fourth heat comfortably to maintain his overall lead in the world Flying Dutchman championship at St Vincent's Gulf off Adelaide, Australia yesterday. After winning the start in the long-course race over 14 nautical miles, Majthenyi rounded the first mark in front and was unchallenged for the rest of the race. Ian McCrossin, of Australia, finished 45 seconds behind in second place, with the rest of the fleet a further two minutes astern.

Answers from page 48

POONTANG

(c) Sexual intercourse, sex women collectively, or a woman, regarded as a means of sexual gratification. 1959, R. Condon. *Minutarian Candidate*: "Every now and then I think about you coming all the way to Korea from New Jersey to get your first piece of poontang."

ROLAG

(a) A roll of carded wool ready for spinning. "Jenny Pollard sat on a low stool in the corner of the room, carefully teasing the wool in preparation for spinning by forming a rolag."

OUTCROSS

(b) To cross an animal or a plant with one not closely related. "Mrs Child emphasised how necessary it would be to out-cross by introducing dogs unrelated to the favoured animal, so that close-breeding is avoided."

PAK-CHOI

(c) A Chinese species of cabbage. "Pak-choi is also called Chinese mustard, and is noted for its lack of smell when cooking."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1...Qd1! 2 Kd1 Rd1 mate

John Woodcock sees encouraging signs for England

Warne out of the groove

Some unexpected, indeed remarkable, Australian bowling figures have been returned in this third Test match, which, whatever the result of the game, can only be of encouragement to England. Although only one set belongs to Shane Warne, he is responsible, indirectly, for them all.

After bowling as well as I have seen him on the first day of the match, McDermott sent down another 34 overs for 135 runs and the one wicket of Gough. He got grumpier and grumpier, and took longer and longer about his overs; but he never bowled badly. The umpires had all kinds of reasons for reprimanding him but, needless to say, left him to his own devices.

Touted in Australia as the best off spinner in the world, Tim May has now played ten Test matches since bowling so effectively in England in 1993, in which he has taken only 22 wickets at 48.6 apiece. For every wicket taken he has bowled 21 overs.

May is an excellent foil for Warne when Warne is bowling well, but here in Sydney Warne has had a strangely

uncomfortable match, his worst since his earliest days. In 52 overs, costing 136 runs, his only wicket was Devon Malcolm's, the result of a blind swipe, and he hardly passed the bat.

Before this, Warne's figures for the series were 20 wickets costing 9.5 runs each. So what has happened?

A much better and more durable pitch than those at the Gabba and the Melbourne Cricket Ground is obviously a prime factor. Although the ball has moved about a lot when the weather has been cloudy, when the sun has shone the bounce has been even and there has been no turn to speak of.

If Warne's shoulder is troubling him, the Australian camp is keeping it very dark. Could it be that England's batsmen are slowly coming to terms with Warne? I think it could, and it was certainly a



Tim May, for every wicket he has taken, has bowled 21 overs

help on Sunday to have John Crawley at No 5, his confidence all the higher for having missed the débâcle of the first two Tests.

I doubt whether Allan Border would have handled Warne quite as Mark Taylor did. He would almost certainly not have given him eight overs on the first morning of the match, when the ball was swinging and the quicker bowlers were very much in their element.

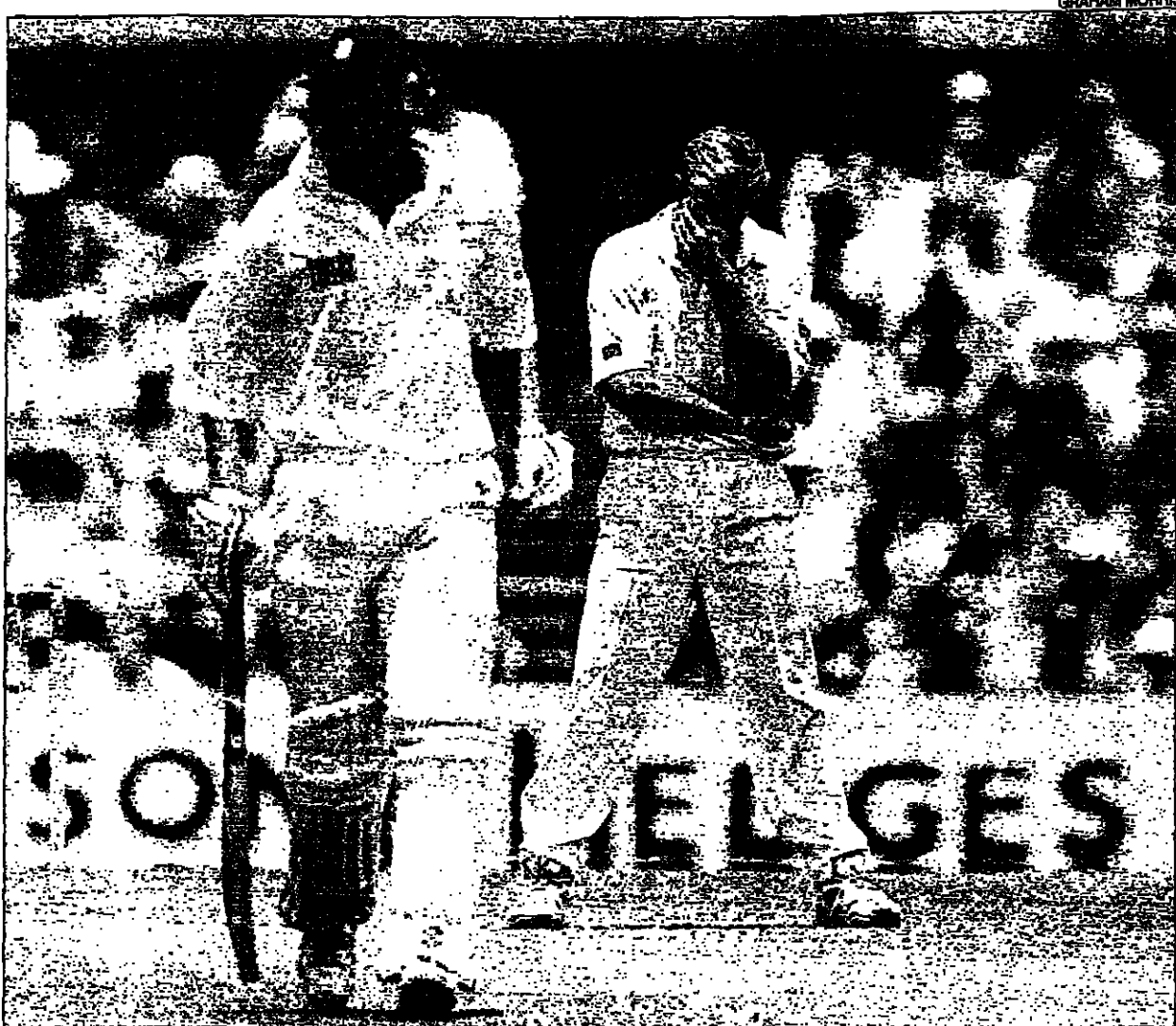
It was also to England's advantage yesterday to be allowed a good look at Warne in favourable batting conditions. With Warne, the catalyst, out of circulation, as it were, McDermott and May are correspondingly less difficult. Border seldom bowled Warne early and never for the sake of it.

It was a pity that Atherton felt obliged to close England's second innings yesterday af-

ternoon when Hick, his most valuable yet vulnerable batsman, was so near to his first hundred against Australia, one that would have done him a power of good. Hick had not tried to get on with things quite as he should have done, but to make so public an example of him seemed unwise.

I happened to think, too, that England could have done with a few more runs on the board than they had. If ever the record score to win a Test match seemed likely to be broken, as strong a batting line-up as Australia's at the moment on a pitch as good as this one against the attack at Atherton's disposal seemed close to the ingredients required.

Taylor and Slater gave Australia's innings the perfect start, picking out England's slowcoaches in the field with their running between wickets and generally excelling themselves. History is against an Australian victory, of course, but it is the history of Australia that is now the history of progress, and by the close of play the initiative was very definitely with them.



Warne's disbelief is evident as Atherton, left, continues to get the better of him in Sydney yesterday

England WIN!

(this ad was printed last night—)

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Salisbury emerges with credit after late show

By Our Sports Staff

THE England A captain, Alan Wells, last night defended his decision to hold back the leg spinner, Ian Salisbury, for more than three hours in the match against India Youth in Bombay.

Salisbury, the A team's senior spinner, grew visibly impatient as his fellow slow bowlers, Richard Stemp and Paul Weekes, wheeled away through a long, hot afternoon. When he was finally thrown the ball deep into the final session, Salisbury responded by taking two for 25 from ten overs.

He struck a crucial blow by removing Amol Muzumdar, India's latest batting discovery, for 68. By the close, India Youth were 152 for five in reply to England's 283. Muzumdar, who toured England with the India Under-19 side last summer, said afterwards he was puzzled by Salisbury's non-appearance until the 49th over, when the Indians were 102 for three.

Salisbury, who has significant experience of Indian conditions after touring here with the England senior side two years ago, seemed to prove a point with a spell that made sure the A team kept on top in

A superb innings of 91 by Chris Schofield, of Yorkshire, helped England Under-19 to reach 308 for eight declared on the first day of their three-day match against Barbados Under-19 in Bridgetown. Barbados finished on 19 for two.

their opening four-day match. This is an important tour for Salisbury, who is 25 later this month and keen to regain the Test place he lost after the tour of the West Indies last winter. The shoulder problems that have dogged him in the past two years have gone and he knows he must perform well if he is to resurrect his Test career.

Defending his tactics, Wells said: "Ian likes to bowl when the ball is a little bit older. Being held back was no reflection on him at all. Stemp and Weekes put pressure on their batsmen and whenever things are going your way you are loath to change it. When he came on, Ian also bowled extremely well."

England A: First Innings
J E R Gaskarth b Mubomburu 4
N V Knight c Deyhle b Karnal 59
M R Ramprakash b b Siddiqui 59
A P Wells c Deyhle b Rao 21
D J Gurney b b Siddiqui 7
P N Weekes c Leaman b Karnal 33
D G Gort c Deyhle b V 69
D K Salisbury c Deyhle b Karnal 18
P A Nixon not out 18
G Chappell c Singh b Rao 8
R D Stemp not out 7
Extras (lb 1, lb 15, w 3, nb 10) 25
Total 283
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-49, 3-108, 4-125, 5-152, 6-217, 7-283, 8-283, 9-283

BOWLING: Mubomburu 24-4-46-2, Siddiqui 21-5-49-1, Karnal 22-3-65-3, Rao 20-4-69-2, V 29-9-51-1.

INDIA YOUTH XI: First Innings
Z Bhuvneshwar c and b Gort 5
J Singh c Ramprakash b Weekes 12
A Muzumdar c Wells b Salisbury 68
V Laxman b b Stemp 10
S Sarathi c Knight b Salisbury 17
S Deyhle not out 18
U Karnal not out 18
Extras (lb 1, lb 4, nb 4) 9
Total (5 wickets) 152
Rao P Mubomburu, I Siddiqui and B V to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-42, 3-75, 4-119, 5-120
BOWLING: Gort 61-21-1, Chappell 12-4-17-0, Stemp 19-4-31-1, Weekes 21-3-51-1, Salisbury 10-3-25-2.

Umpires: A Jayaprakash and J Singh.

Captain's innings by Cronje tilts Test balance

By Our Sports Staff

HANSIE CRONJE, the captain, scored his fourth Test century and Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper, struck an unbeaten 70 to give South Africa the upper hand over New Zealand in the third and final Test match of the series in Cape Town yesterday.

South Africa had carried their overnight 152 for three to 381 for seven in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 288 by the close of the third day at Newlands. With a lead of 93, three wickets left and two days to go, they are well placed to press for victory in the deciding game of the series, which stands level at 1-1.

Cronje, who had resumed with his score standing at 11, reached his hundred with a single to third man off the left-arm spinner, Matthew Hart, and immediately acknowledged a standing ovation from a crowd of 15,230 before kissing the Protea badge on his helmet.

Twelve runs later, he mistimed an on drive against Hart and was caught by Chris Pringle for 112. Cronje faced 235 balls and struck ten fours and a straight six off Hart, during a stay of four hours 48 minutes. The wicket was small consolation for Hart, who gave Cronje his only life, at 59, when he spilled the simplest of catches at mid-wicket off the opening bowler, Simon Doull.

Shane Thomson, who took the three wickets that fell on Tuesday, failed to make an impact yesterday, and Danny Morrison, who sent down 31 overs at a cost of 92 runs, remained wicketless.

South Africa lost two wickets during the morning session. John Commings (27) failed to reach the pitch of a ball from Hart and pushed an attempted off drive to Ken Rutherford fielding at short extra cover, while Jonty Rhodes was bowled by Doull, via an inside edge, after scoring 18.

Cronje then put on 46 for the sixth wicket with Brian McMillan, the partnership ending when the all-rounder fell leg-before to Pringle for 18. Cronje, whose three previous Test centuries led to victories over Sri Lanka, India and Australia, added 54 with Richardson for the seventh wicket before he was dismissed just before the tea interval.

Richardson and the left-arm spinner, Clive Elsteven, batted throughout the final session but could add only 56 as Rutherford set defensive fields. Elsteven laboured for 111 balls for reach double figures but Richardson was more successful, completing his half-century from 104 balls.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 288 (K Rutherford 66, S P Fleming 75, S D Jack 4 for 68, B M McMillan 4 for 65)

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings
K Rutherford 66
S P Fleming 75
S D Jack 4
B M McMillan 4
Clive Elsteven 18
Jonty Rhodes 18
Shane Thomson 18
Matthew Hart 112
Chris Pringle 11
Extras (lb 1, lb 4, nb 4) 9
Total (7 wickets) 381
S D Jack and P S de Villiers to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-100, 2-119, 3-125, 4-181, 5-225, 6-271, 7-325

BOWLING: Morrison 31-6-69-0, Doull 20-11-41-1, Pringle 22-4-58-1, Hart 43-7-115-2, Thomson 31-7-83-0.

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and B T Lambson.

Andrew Longmore on a jet pilot gliding for title on a wing and his flair



Davis surveys the magnificent vista above Hampshire from the cockpit of the glider he will use in the world championships. Photographs: Julian Herbert

Champion Briton reaches for the skies

Andrew Davis has flown 13,000 hours in his career so far, the majority with an engine. By profession, he pilots jumbos for British Airways, for sport he flies gliders, well enough to be world champion in the standard class, the most competitive form of gliding.

Starting on Sunday, Davis will defend his world title in the skies above Ormara in the heart of New Zealand's South Island. 12 days, four hours and 500 kilometres a day, needing an estimated ten decisions a minute. By the end, win or lose, Davis will be in no fit state to fly a kite, let alone a jumbo jet.

Competitive gliding, he says, is like walking a tight-rope, a balance between speed and safety, between the short-term aim of staying in the air and the long-term objective of winning, which means flying round a set course quicker than anyone else.

"The glider's master is gravity," he said. "To put it simply, the skill is to find some hot air going up faster than you're coming down. You're using your brain, experience, luck — anything you can to defy the laws of nature." Some pilots fly smoothly and methodical-

ly; Davis admits to being a jinker and weaver, as befits his restless manner.

"My instinct is to take outrageous decisions, to go in the opposite direction from everyone else. But it's a constant process of weighing up information, of looking at the formation of the clouds, looking at the ground, trying to find the next thermal and, when you've found one, deciding whether to stay with it or hop onto another in the hope it might be stronger."

Decisions have to be made instantly; you can't look up the answers, which is why experience, being in the same situation before and having a library of information, is so important," Davis added.

When he started, he had a reputation for being brilliant one day, awful the next. In recent years, he has had to curb his natural impatience and eschew theatricals in the name of caution. Flying in fourth gear, he calls it. He would still rather be in fifth.

Davis played rugby when he was at school and enjoyed it, but you sense he is happiest making his own decisions. He learnt to glide with his father, first competed 20 years ago, at the age of 18, and soon found

he was better than everyone else, winning his first national championships in 1978.

Since then, glider No 80, the registration number he inherited from his father, has dominated the UK national championships so completely that the West Countryman now wins the superglider class in his showman model, the equivalent of winning a 1600cc

class rally in a 1300cc car.

In New Zealand, Davis will be helped by the three other pilots in the British team. It is not strictly a team event, but they will fly in formation, exchange information by radio and leapfrog each other like a cycling team time-trial. With the minimum of time to learn the peculiarities of the local climate, pooling re-

sources will be an essential part of beating off the challenge of the professional teams from France and Germany.

Besides, he might need some protection at the death when, in contrast to its image as a gentle, peaceful sport, anything goes.

In 1989, Davis led for most of the world championship ahead of a French pilot, only

for the rest of the French team deliberately to block him on the final day, allowing their man to win. "I spent most of the time trying to avoid a collision. It was very frustrating."

But quite within the spirit of the game, apparently, Davis said he would have done the same if the roles had been reversed. Mid-air collisions are not uncommon, but not unknown, either.

So, in the midst of the rough and tumble, does he ever have time to appreciate the serenity of his sport? "When conditions are good, you can be flying at an average speed of 100mph and moving across the countryside like a giant. It is hard to put into words how stunning it can be sometimes."

The world championship, however, will be all business. Davis is apprehensive about his chances because a number of rivals have been training in New Zealand, learning the winds and the mountain waves. He had neither the time nor the money to do so.

Flying jets is not quite the same. "If you can fly a glider, you can fly a light aircraft and vice versa but, to be honest, there is not much I can learn from flying a 747 that will help me win a world title."



At work, Davis holds the lives of many in his hands as he pilots a jumbo jet

Modahl awaits date for hearing

OUR SPORTS STAFF

DIANE MODAHL, banned from athletics for four years after a positive drugs test, has formally appealed against the decision. Modahl, the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion, tested positive for excessive levels of testosterone at a meeting in Lisbon on June 18. She was the first British woman to fail a drugs test.

Modahl's solicitor, Tony Morton-Hopner, said yesterday that a letter had been sent to the British Athletic Federation (BAF) late last month appealing against the ban. He said the BAF had confirmed receipt of the letter but had not yet set a date for a hearing by its independent appeal panel.

The BAF management board will tomorrow discuss the composition of the panel. Colin Jackson, who won all of his hurdles races last year, launches his 1995 campaign for Britain in the McDonald's international against Russia at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on January 28. Tony Jarrett and John Regis have also been confirmed for the team, which will be chosen in full next week.

Catherine McKiernan has changed her racing plans in the build-up to the world cross-country championships at Durham in March. The Irish runner, beaten in Durham by Rose Cheruvot in the IAAF challenge last week, has pulled out of this Saturday's event at Mullusk, Belfast.

"I'm going to train for two weeks," McKiernan, runner-up in the past three championships, said. "It's not a question of tiredness."

Divisions reported in athletics army

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

MA'S Family Army is a family at war. Sixteen members of Ma Junren's elite Chinese women's running squad, including Wang Junxia, his 3,000 and 10,000 metres world record-holder, have quit his training camp, according to *The Beijing Youth Daily* newspaper. The split is said to have left Ma with only three athletes and been caused by a dispute over money and his excessive training demands.

According to the report yesterday, Ma has kept most of the athletes' winnings. *The Liberation Daily* newspaper said recently that Ma owned the three Mercedes cars won by his athletes for their victories in Stuttgart and had spent seven million yuan on his training centre in Liaoning province out of his athletes' winnings of ten million yuan.

The *Liberation Daily* quoted Wang as saying that she had received 170,000 yuan while his other star athlete, Qu Yunxia, had received 65,000 yuan. Qu, the 1,500 metres world record-holder, was dropped from Ma's squad because she refused to give up her boyfriend or have her hair cut. Ma's recent troubles go beyond athletics. He is in hospital recovering from a road accident in which his car struck a barrier while he was returning to his training centre from his father's funeral.

While under Ma's weekly training amounted to a marathon a day. His women athletes made their first mark at the 1993 world championships, winning the 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres and sweeping the medals in the 3,000 metres. The following month they made staggering improvements on the world records for all three distances.



Ma Junren: tough coach

A quick fade in Tinseltown

On the Ropes, Radio 4, 9.30am.

John Humphrys resumes his interviews with people whose reversal of fortunes have been manna from heaven for headline writers. Judged even by the sensational standards set by Tinseltown, the British film producer David Puttnam's exit after only 16 months' occupation of his chairman's office at Columbia Pictures was something that caused many a case-hardened jaw to droop. New to me is his revelation that when he parted company with Columbia in 1987, he and his wife literally danced for joy. He fires only one aloof-shouldered arrow, but keeps its target secret. He generously lists his mistakes and — unusually for a film-maker — is not embarrassed to talk about the moral precepts that have sustained him.

From Taunton to Tennessee and Back, Radio 2, 10.00pm.

Ashley Hutchings's seven-part series about the English folk-song roots of American country music is, I believe, radio's first comprehensive attempt to analyse the genre. It is not just the role of the folk-rock veteran appears tonight. We hear his Albion Band performing their reworking of one of the Shaker songs that accompanied the persecuted Ann Lee and her faithful disciples when they fled from England to America in 1774. Tonight's opening instalment also includes 20th-century arrangements of 18th-century hymns, secular ballads and sea shanties such as the rousing "Bonnie Bay of Biscay-o".

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

PM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30 Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo: Robert England, Freddy Krueger in the Nightmares on Elm Street series of films. Is God of the Week 12.00 Live L.A. Report. Including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Neddy Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Soundbite: Denny Kelly asks why so many British pop stars sing in American accents, and looks at the merger of rap and soul music 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

PM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 6.15am Pause for Thought 7.30am Wake Up to Women 8.15am Pause for Thought 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 2.00pm Fiona Armstrong 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm For Peter or for Worse 8.00pm Country Club: Hal Ketchum in concert 9.00pm Paul Jones presents rhythm and blues 10.00pm From Taunton to Tennessee and Back: See Choice 10.30 The Jamblers 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

Midnight Test Match Special: final day of the third Test 7.00am The Breakfast Show 8.25 The Magazine, including at 9.40am Film Review, 10.15 Health and Fitness Campaign, 10.35 Euro-news, 11.00am Gull Racism 12.00pm Midday with News, including at 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.05pm Ruzene on Five 4.00pm John Inverdale 5.00pm News 5.30pm News, including at 7.30pm spot 7.35pm News on Top 8.35pm Remember You: Roger Taylor explores the careers of athletes Lindsey McDonald and Dorothy Hyman 9.00pm Sportsman's 10.00pm News with Paul Reynolds 11.00pm Night Extra, including at 11.45pm The Financial World Tonight 12.00am Night Moves 2.05am All Night

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including: (Mozart) on the Stage: Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in B flat, BWV 1051); Liszt (La Campanella); Schubert (Furze); The Creation of Prometheus; 8.30am Artists of the Week: Choir of King's College, Cambridge, plays Part (The Beatitude); Prokofiev (Suite, The Steel Dance) 9.00am Composers of the Week: The Elton Johnbook: Scarlatti (Sonata in D minor); Alastair Nicholson (Don't Explain); Purcell (Aldersley, excerpts); Beethoven (Sonata in D minor, Op 31 No 2); 10.55am Artists of the Week: Choir of King's College, Cambridge, sings Rossini (Carmen senato spirit); Pette Messia (Sonnet); 11.00am Liszt (Concerto for Orchestra); Vagn Holmboe (Sonata No 1, Op 143a); Rossini (Agnes Dei, Petite Messe Solennelle) 12.00pm Ensemble: Ruth Waterman, violin, Amado Cohen, piano play Schumann and Beethoven (i) 1.00pm Opera Matinee: Children's Chorus of the Flanders Opera; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders under Grant Llewellyn perform Händel and Handel, Humperdinck's operatic version of the Grimm brothers' fairy-tale, Sung in German, with Jeanne Plead and Lucia Locantore 3.00pm Leon McCawley, piano, plays Soler, Chopin, Mozart, Faure and Barber (i)

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping 6.00 News 6.15am Weather 6.30am News 6.45am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 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Australia make impressive start to quest for record victory score

Declaration leaves Hick in distress

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

MICHAEL ATHERTON was never likely to compromise the pursuit of the Ashes for the pride of the individual, and the penultimate day of the third Test match proclaimed his single-mindedness, as he declared England's second innings with Graeme Hick on 98 not out. If he found sleep elusive last night it would not have been on Hick's account but, nevertheless, he may have wished he had shown more compassion.

There was a steely lack of sentiment in Atherton's act but it was justified on cricketing grounds. England led by 448, 42 more than had ever been scored to win a Test match, the weather forecast was uncertain and the impending tea interval offered two bursts with the new ball.

The theory was flawless, the execution faulty. In 38 overs before the close, on a pitch playing serenely true, Australia amassed 139 without loss, 23 more than their all-out total in the first innings. It was batting of impressive certainty by Mark Taylor and Michael Slater, and an extraordinary game entered its last act with all results plausible.

That Hick was denied a third Test century was regrettable, for he needs all possible encouragement to fulfil his potential. It was perhaps cussed of Atherton to call his batsmen in after Hick had made no attempt to score off the last three balls of an over. Almost certainly, Hick was distressed on returning to the dressing-room.

All of this must be conjecture, however, for Hick declined to be interviewed

afterwards and Atherton left the matter in the hands of his team manager, Keith Fletcher. Without looking comfortable with the task, Fletcher explained that Hick had been told at a drinks break, 20 minutes earlier, that the declaration was due "very soon". He conceded that no message had been conveyed to Hick that he was facing the final over but, with correct emphasis, added: "Michael has to put the team first. The game has to come before the individual."

The greatest shame of this unusual incident was that Atherton was booed by a small section of the crowd when he led England out to field. This not only revealed that the priorities had escaped those concerned but did a cruel disservice to the man who had kept England in the game on the first day and led them with élan thereafter.

Much worse behaviour followed in the final session, as the self-styled "Barry Army" of England followers showed that their noisy antics are not exclusively harmless. Some beery clashes with Australian supporters on what used to be the Hill led to a line of police and stewards separating the rival groups.

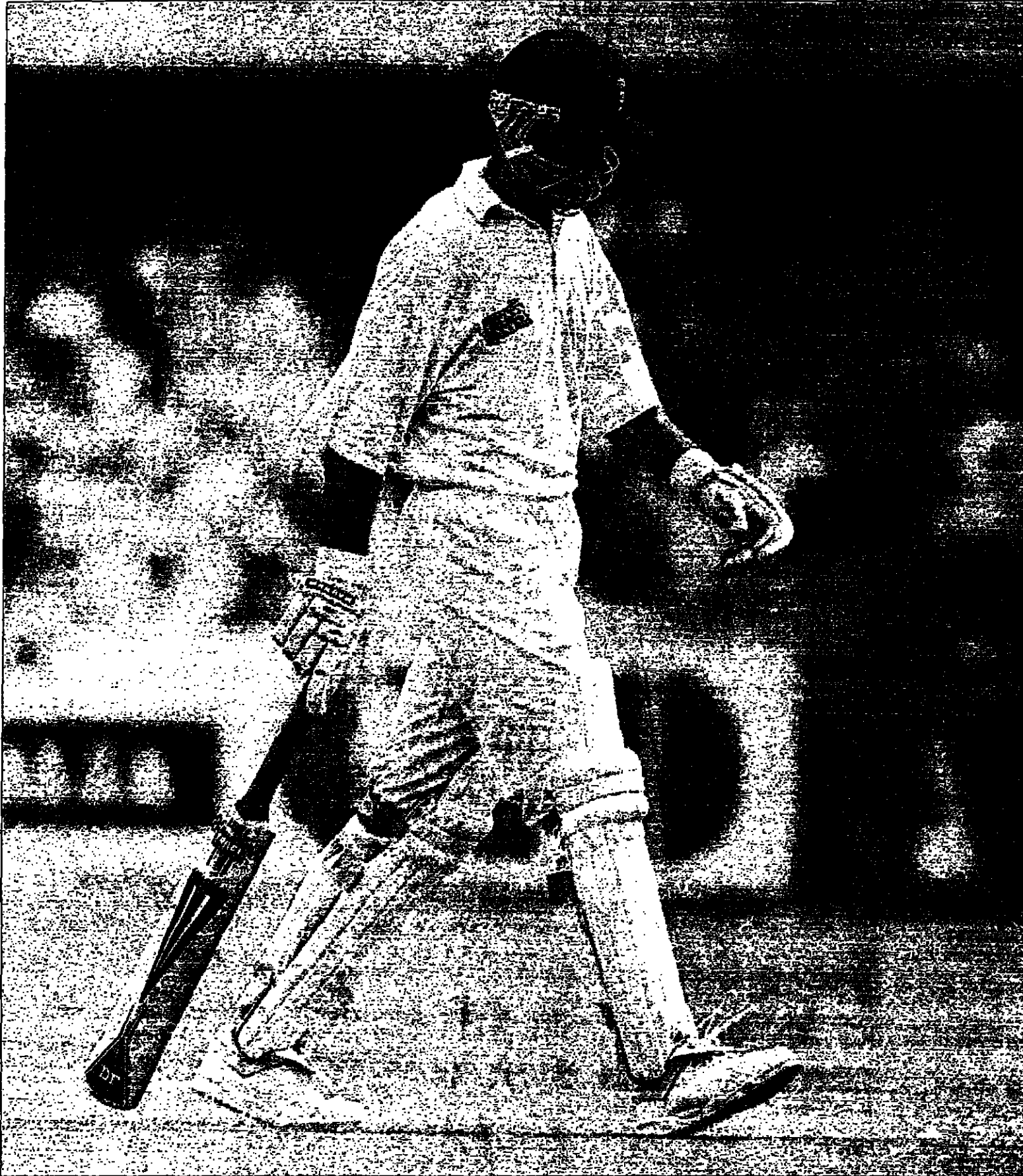
What a pity, on a day when the crowd of 22,812 lifted the match attendance above 100,000 and was the highest fourth-day crowd on this ground for ten years. Test cricket is thriving again in this country, but the kind of warlike behaviour that so damagingly infected football some years ago should be discouraged.

Crickets timeless capacity to defy expectation has been proudly on show here and the third and fourth days were in stark contrast. On Tuesday, in dank and bowler-friendly conditions, 11 wickets fell for 202. Yesterday, as the sun broke through after some wild and wet overnight weather, only one wicket fell all day and 304 runs were scored, six fewer than Australia were left requiring on the final day.

England, resuming with a lead of 283, were cautious in adding only 84 during the morning session but there were mitigating circumstances. Australia were as blatant and unchecked in their time wasting as England had been in parallel circumstances last week in Melbourne.

Atherton became the first player in the series to aggregate 300 runs and added 67 to his first-innings 88 before steering Fleming to first slip. Hick, whose innings was far from unblemished, had his greatest escape on 54, when he played a ball from Tim May firmly into the base of leg stump, disturbing but not dislodging the ball.

Australia, however, had little interest in taking wickets and even Shane Warne, finding the pitch was not to his liking, bowled little but regular leg breaks. Hick's most forthright strokes were played when Craig McDermott dropped short, as he did too often for the Australians' comfort, and soon after lunch he hooked him successfully for six and four. Hick was not slow by normal standards, facing 166 balls in all, but he lingered in the nineties as Graham Thorpe took the ma-



Hick departs, head bowed, two short of a century after Atherton's declaration in the third Test in Sydney yesterday afternoon

Atherton makes team priority

Four years ago almost to the day, Michael Atherton, the England captain, scored his first and only century against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground but yesterday it was his wave from the balcony that stopped Graeme Hick two runs short of a cherished ambition.

Hick gave every sign of surprise at the termination of his innings and avoided comment on his captain's decision. "He was aware of the situation," was all Atherton would say on the matter.

Atherton was apparently aiming to declare at around 3pm with an overall lead of 450. In the event, he called a halt at 2.57pm, when England

Time and the approach of the tea interval conspired to deny Hick the chance of a century

were 448 ahead. Keith Fletcher, the team manager, attempted to explain: "The declaration was going to come around that sort of time. Graeme was told during the drinks interval [at 2.40pm] that the declaration was coming soon. It's the captain's decision taken in the context of the game. An Ashes century is special but the game has to come before the individual."

Salisbury strikes, page 44
Cronje's century, page 44

Only three other captains, in the previous 1280 Test matches, have closed an innings with a batsman in the nineties. Two of those instances hardly bear comparison with the present case. When Imran Khan closed the Pakistan innings against Sri Lanka at Sialkot in 1991, he was the batsman in question. He was near the end of his career and had scored six Test hundreds before. Nor could Everton Weekes have been desperate for a three-figure score when Jeffrey Stollmeyer, the West Indies captain, declared with him on 90 against England at Kingston in 1954. Weekes already had nine Test centuries to his credit.

Atherton's only rival in the insensitivity stakes is Bill Lawry, who was roundly condemned for declaring with nine first-innings wickets down against England at Melbourne in 1971 when Rod Marsh was only eight runs from becoming the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a Test hundred. Marsh scored the first of his three Test centuries two years later.

History not on captain's side

Simon Wilde finds few precedents of Test batsmen left stranded in the 90s

Cricket is a team game. Eleven individuals with one purpose, and all that. Only on Tuesday, Darren Gough reminded us of this when he said he would rather take no wickets for 100 than six for 50 if it meant England won, which is easy to say, of course, when you have just done the latter rather than the former.

But declaring when one of your batsmen is only two runs from his first hundred against Australia? Michael Atherton's decision may have badly damaged the self-esteem of Graeme Hick, who has scored just two Test centuries amid his 79 in first-class cricket.

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Diary, page 18
John Woodcock, page 44

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings 309 (M A Atherton 88, J P Crawley 72, D Gough 51, C J McDermott 5 for 101).

Second Innings

G A Gough lbw b Fleming 29 (167min, 37 balls, 4 fours)

*M A Atherton c Taylor b Fleming 67 (220min, 168 balls, 5 fours)

G A Hick not out 98 (255min, 166 balls, 1 six, 10 fours)

G P Thorpe not out 47 (177min, 71 balls, 4 fours)

Extras (lb 6, w 1, nb 7) 14

Total 12 dec, 72 overs, 317min 255

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54 (Atherton 20), 2-158 (Hick 51)

BOWLING: McDermott 24-2-78-0 (nb 7), 31-4-0, 9-1-22-0, 7-0-20-0, 5-0-19-0, Fleming 20-3-59-2 (w 1), 2-0-9-0, 2-25-1, 7-1-18-1, 2-0-7-0, M E Waugh 21-4-0, 11-0-0, 1-0-4-0, Warne 16-2-40-0, 11-0-37-0, 2-0-9-0, 1-0-3-0, May 10-1-55-0 (one spell)

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 116 (M A Taylor 49, D Gough 6 for 49).

Second Innings

*M A Taylor not out 64 (157min, 106 balls, 7 fours)

M J Slater not out 68 (157min, 124 balls, 8 fours)

Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 2) 10

Total 10 wks, 38 overs, 157min 139

D C Brann M E Waugh, M G Bevan, S R Watson, 11-2-33-0, T B A May and D W Fleming to bat

BOWLING: Malcolm 9-1-44-0 (4-0-25-0, 5-1-20-0), Gough 10-3-32-0 (2-0-25-0, 3-1-7-0), Fraser 7-1-26-0 (1-0-13-0, 3-0-13-0), 4-1-19-0, Tufnell 10-1-20-0 (1-0-23-0, 1-1-0-0), Hick 2-0-9-0 (one spell)

Umpires: S A Jackson (West Indies) and D B Har (Australia)

TV replay umpire: W A Cameron

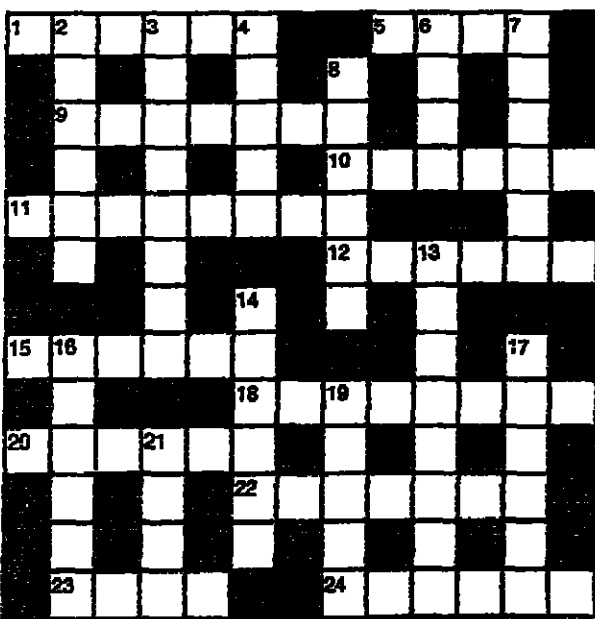
Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand)

PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test (Sydney), Australia won by 184 runs

Second Test (Melbourne), Australia won by 235 runs

MATCHES TO COME: Fourth Test (Adelaide, January 26-30), Fifth Test (Perth, February 3-7)

Compiled by Bill Fennell



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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 361

ACROSS

- 1 Small job (to be sent on) (6)
- 5 Facetious remark (4)
- 9 Wretched, filthy state (7)
- 10 Without compare (6)
- 11 Cuts up: accommodation (8)
- 12 Ladies' leg coverings (6)
- 15 Allow (6)
- 19 Gathering (8)
- 20 Prey: building-material source (6)
- 22 Occasion when day and night are of same length (7)
- 23 Unit of length: spar (4)
- 24 Adequate: respectable (6)

DOWN

- 2 Mildly improper (6)
- 3 Fish exhibition building (8)
- 4 Dig deeply (5)
- 6 Tangerine/grape-fruit/orange cross (4)
- 7 Card game with reduced pack (6)
- 8 (Loaf) having a hard outside (6)
- 13 Testonic (5)
- 14 Remained (6)
- 16 Fairness actors' union (6)
- 17 Loud horn (6)
- 19 Small group (on joint task) (5)
- 21 Back: bring up (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 360

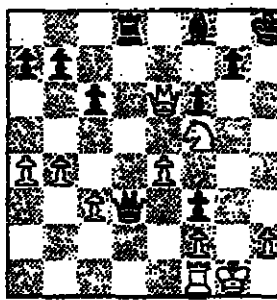
ACROSS: 1 Hack 3 Cheerful 8 Nosh 9 Catching 11 Silhouette 14 Minute 15 Nectar 17 Antifreeze 20 Economic 21 Beta 22 Treasure 23 Gilt
DOWN: 1 Handsome 2 Crawling 4 Hoaxes 5 Ex cathedra 6 Flip 7 Logo 10 Portentous 12 Ethereal 13 Artefact 16 Vizard 18 Peat 19 Doer

WORDWATCHING

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Blumenfeld - Alekhine, Moscow 1908.

How did Black finish off?



Solution, page 43
Raymond Keene, page 9

WORDWATCHING

By Philip Howard

POONTANG

- a. A boat's mast
- b. A large bucket
- c. Sexual intercourse

OUTCROSS

- a. To reaffirm
- b. To cross breed
- c. To over-take

ROLAG

- a. Wool for spinning
- b. A lazy dog
- c. A tranquilliser

Answers on page 43

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